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### Iraq protests at opposition meeting in London

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq accused Britain Wednesday of interfering in its internal affairs by hosting a meeting of the Iraqi opposition with U.S. and British diplomats. Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz sent a letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to protest at Britain's "aggressive policy which is contrary to the U.N. charter," the official news agency INA said. "The British Foreign Office has officially recognised that it seeks to meddle in the internal affairs of Iraq, to overthrow the government and harm its security and sovereignty," he wrote. "The U.N. should assume its responsibility and oppose such illegal acts," said Mr. Aziz. "Iraq has the right to defend its sovereignty and the right to choose its own political regime." The Foreign Office held the meeting on Sept. 29.

### Crown Prince receives U.S. under-secretary of state

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday received at the Royal Court the U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Stuart E. Eizenstat. Prince Hassan and Mr. Eizenstat reviewed means of promoting bilateral trade and economic relations. The Crown Prince stressed the need for activating trade exchange among the region's countries on an institutional and transparent bases in order to reach free economies and to lift trade barriers. For his part, Mr. Eizenstat emphasised his country's commitment to extending technical aid to the Kingdom particularly those that might help Jordan join the World Trade Organisation (see story on page 8).

# King reveals letter on possible dialogue with Hamas sent to Netanyahu 48hrs before assault

*Netanyahu headed damage containment delegation to Jordan, was met by Crown Prince*

BY Tareq Ayyoub
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday disclosed that he had sent a message to Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu offering mediation between Israel and the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, two days before the Mossad attempted to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al.

"It's no secret that 48 hours prior to the painful incident, I sent a message to the Israeli prime minister telling him that there was a possibility to discuss holding a dialogue between them and Hamas to stop the episode of horror and violence," the King said during a rally at Al Hussein Youth City yesterday.

The proposed talks were to include "discussing all issues that should be dealt with. I told them that I was ready to engage in such an endeavour because of our pain, my pain and the pain of every Jordanian man and woman towards the loss of any child's life, any woman's life, any innocent person's life.

"But it was said, however, that this letter did not reach on time."

Hamas, which opposes the 1993 Oslo accords between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, has repeatedly said that it will not negotiate with Israel. However, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of Hamas, who was released by Israel after 8 years in prison this week, has taken a much softer stand towards Israel suggesting that a ceasefire against civilians is possible if Israel was to stop measures against Palestinian civilians.

The King said that as far as Jordan is concerned, if Mr. Misha'al was killed in the assassination attempt, his death would have brought an end to the peace process in the Middle East.

Referring to President Bill Clinton but without naming him, the King said that he made a telephone call to "a very important international personality, which played a role from the very beginning in the efforts [to overcome the problem].

"I told him that the fate of the peace process is dependent on the life of this Jordanian (Khaled Misha'al)," the King said.

The King said that during his talks and contacts to solve the issue, "our utmost priority was to save the life of this Jordanian (Mr. Misha'al) and that was achieved. The responsible party (Israel) submitted all the information it could, without which it would have been difficult to

(Continued on page 2)



His Majesty King Hussein informs the nation of the details related to the attempt on the life of Hamas leader, Khaled Misha'al, by Israeli agents (Photo by Youssef 'Allan)

### King calls on citizens to elect those able to serve Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday called on Jordanians to take part in the upcoming Nov. 4 elections and to choose the best among the candidates to represent them in the 13th Parliament.

"We are on the verge of new parliamentary elections. The previous parliament has extended all it could and shouldered its responsibility, which we appreciate," the King said in a speech to former members of parliament, ministers and notables in Amman.

"I wish that all will participate in the new stage of our life with responsibility... to choose those who are the best to represent them in the new House," the King said.

"We are at the beginning of the path of democracy and Shura that we have chosen. The path that makes all of us a united family bearing our responsibility together," the King added.

The King urged Jordanians to take into consideration the "country's interests ... not the narrow interests... to choose the best, the more aware and those who are able to serve the country," he added.

### Seven Palestinians escape Israeli jail

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Seven Palestinians escaped from an Israeli prison before dawn Wednesday, prompting a police manhunt, security sources said. The prisoners, who were jailed for smuggling merchandise, sawed through the window bars of their cell in Telmond prison in northern Israel, the sources said. Authorities were alerted by another prisoner who at the last minute was too afraid to join the prison break. He notified prison officials soon after his colleagues escaped.

### Militant Israeli fined $60,000 for attack on Labour MP

TEL AVIV ( AFP) — A Jerusalem court has ordered a right-wing Jewish radical to pay $60,000 in damages to Labour Party Deputy Yael Dayan for throwing scalding tea at her a year ago, officials said Wednesday. Israel Lederman was also ordered to pay for the legal expenses and medical costs of Dayan, daughter of the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, court officials said. Lederman tossed a cup of scalding tea at Dayan in October 1996 as she visited Hebron. Lederman had already been sentenced to three years in prison over the attack but Dayan returned to court to seek financial damages. Lederman had already served a prison term for murdering a Palestinian.

### Fifty-eight journalists killed in Algeria in four years

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Fifty-eight journalists have been killed in Algeria since May 1993, the group Reporters Without Frontiers said Tuesday. Various armed Islamist groups have claimed responsibility for most of the killings, but the Algerian government may be behind some of them, the group said in a statement. The international association said the first reporter killed was Tahar Djaout on May 26, 1993. Several months before. Djaout, 39, had founded a weekly called ruptures that opposed dialogue with Islamist groups. The most recently killed was Aziz Bouabdallah, 24, who worked for Al Alan Al Siyassi paper. Bouabdallah was reportedly taken from his residence April 12 by four members of the Algerian security forces and killed two days later under torture, the association said.

### Iran to deliver Iraqi MIG-21s to anti-Taleban forces — paper

DUBAI (AFP) — Iran is preparing to supply the anti-Taleban forces of ousted Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani with nearly 20 MIG-21 fighter planes belonging to Iraq, the Arabic newspaper Al Hayat said Wednesday. The London-based daily said the MIG-21s were among the planes which Iraq flew to safety in Iran at the start of the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait. "Tehran has painted the planes in the Afghan colours," Al Hayat said, adding that Afghan forces had been using MIG-21s since their battle against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s. Iraq says it flew 115 fighter planes and 33 other aircraft to Iran in January 1991 to protect them from U.S.-led allied raids. But Tehran insists it has 22 Iraqi aircraft which could be returned to Baghdad at the U.N.'s request.

# Arafat-Netanyahu summit offers 'new beginning' but no miracles

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian premiers held a surprise predawn summit meeting Wednesday which U.S. mediator Dennis Ross said offered a "new beginning" but no miracle cure for the ailing peace process.

In their first direct encounter in eight months, Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat held more than two hours of talks at the Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The middle-of-the-night meeting was not previously announced and neither Mr. Netanyahu nor Mr. Arafat spoke to the press.

"I think they saw this as a new beginning between the leaders and indeed a new beginning for the [peace] process," Mr. Ross told reporters, saying Messrs Netanyahu and Arafat renewed pledges to make "peace with security" and agreed to meet "on a regular basis."

"It was a very good meeting in which both of them reaffirmed their commitment to work together, to overcome all problems and all differences," Mr. Ross said.

He said the meeting

(Continued on page 12)

## No date set for second series of Israeli-PNA talks — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The State Department on Wednesday said no date had been set for a second round of Israeli-Palestinian talks expected to take place here at the end of the month.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said the two parties must focus on outstanding issues in the interim accord on Palestinian autonomy, including building an airport and a sea port in Gaza and freedom of movement between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Between now and the end of the month, contacts will be maintained "through various channels," including telephone, Mr. Rubin said.

A second round of high-level talks between Israelis and Palestinians in Washington had been expected to open October 13.

# Canada wants Israeli assurance before ambassador's comeback

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Ambassador David Berger will not go back to Israel until Canada gets an assurance that Israel will not use Canadian passports in operations by their Mossad secret agents, Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy said on Tuesday.

"Let's come to a clear understanding that it will not be done again. I want some satisfaction on that before Mr. Berger will return," Mr. Axworthy told reporters, referring to an attempted assassination in Jordan by agents using Canadian documents.

"If we can't get satisfaction we'll consider what other options are open to us," Mr. Axworthy said.

Minister Axworthy met in Ottawa with Israeli Ambassador David Sultan on Tuesday and agreed that he would send Claude Laverdure, Canada's assistant deputy minister for the Middle East, to Israel at the end of the week to pursue the matter.

Canada voiced outrage at the use of its passports in the Sept. 25 attack on a leader of Hamas and recalled Mr. Berger from Israel.

It received an expression of regret from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Oct. 6 — 11 days after the event.

Some Canadian commentators have suggested the regret was more over the fact that the Israelis got caught than being sorry for having used the passports of another country.

But Mr. Axworthy said of Mr. Levy: "He said they deeply regretted their involvement and their attitude. To me, I take that as an apology."

The Mossad agents were caught trying to murder Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al which has been accused of responsibility for bombings in Israel.

Mr. Axworthy said Canadian officials had now clearly established that the passports used by the Mossad agents were counterfeits printed and forged in Israel, even if they used the names of real Canadians.

"We know that not only the photos were phoney and the signatures forged but also the passport itself was a total counterfeit," he said.

This should clear Canada of any complicity in providing Mossad with documents, he added.

In addition to the two that were caught, there were other individuals the Jordanians were seeking in connection with the attack.

One carried the passport in the name of a third Canadian, with a family name sounding like Aras, Ares, or Aran, but Mr. Axworthy could not remember the spelling.

Canadian officials have been in touch with the real Canadians whose names appear on the three passports, and they have been cooperative, he said.

# Israeli closures have wrecked Palestinian recovery — U.N.

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Israeli closures have cost the Palestinians about $227 million in two months and have wrecked a recovery in the Palestinian economy in early 1997, according to a U.N. report issued Wednesday.

"The comprehensive and internal closures imposed on the West Bank and Gaza Strip in September and August have undermined a significant economic recovery witnessed over the preceding year," said the report, released in Gaza City.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had predicted eight-per cent growth in the Palestinian gross national product for 1997, and in the first half of the year "economic performance was better than anticipated," the report said.

"But the aftermath of recent closure requires a less optimistic revision in growth," said the U.N.'s special coordinator in the occupied territories in its second-quarter report for 1997.

After two Jerusalem bombings, Israel imposed a complete ban on Palestinians entering Israel for work and closed off movement between West Bank towns for extended periods.

It has since eased the ban to allow some 29,000 Palestinians to reach jobs in Israel, about half of the number allowed in before the attacks.

"Total losses from the recent closures could top $227 million, nearly twice the amount disbursed by donor countries to the Palestinian people during the first half of 1997," it said.

Those losses wrecked modest gains which the Palestinian economy made in the first six months of 1997.

During the first half of the year, monthly labour flows into Israel were two-thirds higher that the average monthly labour flow for 1996 and were "somewhat higher" than IMF expectations.

Truckloads of merchandise leaving and entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip for Israel or export abroad rose by a third, compared to 1996.

The total number of fully-employed Palestinians rose by more than nine per cent to nearly 370,000, about 70 per cent of the labour force.

But, the report said, the percentage of potential workers acqually participating in the labour force fell from 42.3 to 40.9 per cent, perhaps reflecting the "discouraged worker phenomenon — the unemployed who have stopped looking for work."

If the drop outs from the labour force are counted, total unemployment in early 1997 "may have been as high as 49.1 per cent."

Also, real monthly wages for working Palestinians fell 9.4 per cent from 1996, from $377 to $341 a month. "Real wages in early 1997 were considerably lower than in late 1995," before the spread of self-rule in the West Bank.

A Palestinian worker's wages could only cover 41.4 per cent of all his expenditures, compared to 57 per cent in 1996.

The report said the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) could expect a "significantly higher" budget deficit for 1997.

Palestinian officials have already said their deficit was expected to hit $116 million for 1997, rather than the forecast $51 million.

As part of its sanctions after the bombings, Israel froze millions of dollars in Palestinian taxes which it has refused to hand over to the PNA.

## U.N. unlikely to approve more Iraq oil contracts

UNITED NATION (AP) — The United Nations has nearly reached its $2 billion goal for the sale of Iraqi oil under the oil-for-food deal and probably will not approve more term contracts, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

" Our projection is we're near the $2 billion amount," the official said on condition of anonymity. He said any contracts still to be approved probably will only be spot contracts that can be filled on short notice. The remaining contracts will probably be approved near the end of the current six-month sale period, when the U.N. has a better idea of how much money has been raised. That depends on prevailing crude oil prices. As of Monday, the special account established to hold the revenues had received $526.626 million. by Oct. 20, the U.N. expects the account to have received another $166.723 million. In addition, U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said the account had accrued $24.2 million in interest. This is the first time the U.N. has released the interest figure.

# At least two Israelis, one SLA man killed in south Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — At least two Israeli soldiers and a pro-Israeli Lebanese militiaman were killed Wednesday in two Hizbollah attacks inside the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in south Lebanon, security sources said.

In addition, six Israeli troops and two other South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen were wounded in the attacks by Hizbollah, the sources said.

But other security sources said four Israeli soldiers had died and nine others plus an SLA militiaman were wounded in the two ambushes, which witnesses said took place close together within 200 metres of the Israeli-Lebanese border.

A Hizbollah spokesman told Agence France Presse the group's guerrillas attacked a "convoy of high-ranking Israelis" which had crossed into the buffer zone from the Al Dawaweer gate on the Israeli border.

"Our fighters showered the convoy with machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades, inflicting direct hits and burning one of the four cars," he said.

At least two, and as many as four, Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others were wounded in the attack. An SLA militiaman was also wounded, the security sources said.

An Israeli army spokesman said Israel and the SLA had suffered casualties in a bomb and mortar attack close to the Israeli border, but in line with army rules he gave no further details so as to allow families to be informed.

Earlier, Hizbollah released a statement saying its guerrillas had attacked an Israeli convoy near Markaba in the central sector of the zone, and that at least one vehicle had been blown up.

The Israeli spokesman said two Israeli soldiers, an officer serving in an elite unit and a scout, were wounded in the Markaba bombing but that neither of them had life-threatening injuries.

A Lebanese woman, identified as Zeinab Hussein, was also said to have been wounded when a rocket hit the village of Markaba itself. There was no confirmation on the source of fire against the village.

In retaliation, Israeli gunners pounded suspected Hizbollah strongholds north of the self-declared security zone.

Security sources said more than 60 shells landed around the outskirts of the villages of Wadi Slouki, Wadi Al Hujeir, Touline and Majdal Selm, setting fire to a number of woods and valleys.

At least 37 Israeli soldiers have now been killed in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year, the highest toll since the Israel set up its "security zone" in 1985.

# U.N. arms chief accuses Iraq of 'lying' about biological weapons

DUBAI (AFP) — A U.N. official has accused Iraq of "lying" about its biological arms programme, in his harshest criticism since taking over as head of a disarmament commission, an Arabic newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The information supplied by Iraq is "ridiculous," Richard Butler told the London-based daily Al Hayat.

"Lies only slow down our mission and make it more difficult," said the chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) for eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"There is no alternative to the truth," said Mr. Butler, whose relations with Iraq have been good since taking over in July from Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, a hate figure in Baghdad.

In a report which Mr. Butler delivered to the U.N. Security Council on Monday, he accused Iraq of continuing to conceal weaponry from UNSCOM inspectors, especially in the field of germ warfare.

"This is an area which is unredeemed by progress or any approximation of the known facts of Iraq's programme," he said. "There is incomprehension of why Iraq is persisting so strongly with ... refusing to make the facts known."

But Mr. Butler said Iraq has made progress in supplying information on its chemical weapons and missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres that have also been banned since the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait.

He urged the Security Council to "insist that Iraq meet its obligation to fully disclose all its prohibited weapons and associated programmes" and give U.N. inspectors access to suspected Iraqi arms sites.

The Security Council is due to discuss Mr. Butler's report on Oct. 16.

An oil embargo under U.N. sanctions, which have been in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, can not be lifted until UNSCOM certifies that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated.



**OCCUPATION TROOPS KILLED: An Israeli soldier watches smoke rise from an Israeli position in Markaba village in the Israeli self-declared security-zone in south Lebanon Wednesday. Four Israeli soldiers were killed and nine wounded on Wednesday in a series of Hizbollah attacks deep inside Israeli's self-declared south Lebanon occupation zone, pro-Israeli militia sources said (See story on page 1) (Reuters photo)**

# Turkish university students protest ban on Islamic head wear

ISTANBUL (AP) — Hundreds of women students at Istanbul University, clad in black robes and head coverings, on Wednesday protested a ban of their Islamic dress from ID card photos.

The university, the nation's largest, has barred women students from registering for the academic year if they submitted photos which show them with a head cover. Other public schools have similar bans.

Women are allowed to attend classes in their Islamic attire. But university officials say that having the attire in photo IDs can make it difficult to recognise students. They must show the IDs to take exams, and can be barred.

A new pro-secular government installed in July after the previous, Islamic-led administration was forced out by the military, has clamped down on activities considered anti-secular.

The black chador favoured by some is a strict Islamic dress code followed only by orthodox believers in this predominantly Muslim but secular country.

Women civil servants, lawyers, judges and doctors at public hospitals are also barred from covering their heads at work. The previous government's efforts to lift those bans were among the factors which led to its demise.

# Hamas play mocks Mossad

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Student supporters of Hamas at Gaza's Islamic University put on a play Tuesday mocking Israel's Mossad spy service after its "defeat" at the hands of the Islamist group.

The 10-minute sketch, put on before a crowd of several hundred students at Al Azhar University, featured three "Mossad agents," named Dani, Mordechai and Mizrahi, played by students.

"Hamas is driving us crazy," Dani wailed, complaining over the agency's failed attempt to kill Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman on Sept. 25.

"We kill Yahyia Ayyash, we kill Imad Aql, and still they drive us nuts," he said, referring to Hamas leaders slain by presumed Israeli agents in the past.

Then the trio receives a phone call from "Bibi" — Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu — informing them he has released the spiritual leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

"But Mossad rules the world! This must be a mistake," Dani Yatom cries at the news, while Mizrahi protests, "I resign, I resign."

"There are four million Israelis. We should import nine million dogs so that every Israeli can have guard dogs to protect him," Mr. Mordechai said.

The mini-play won warm rounds of applause from the crowd of students.

Hamas has been proclaiming victory ever since Mr. Netanyahu was forced last week to free Sheikh Yassin after eight years imprisonment in order to win the return of two Israeli agents arrested by Jordan while trying to kill Mr. Misha'al.

Over 15,000 Palestinians turned out at a mass rally to celebrate Sheikh Yassin's return to Gaza City Monday.

# Yemeni protesters want rapists executed

SANAA (R) — About 1,000 tribesmen took to the streets in a central Yemen town on Tuesday to demand the execution of four men convicted of raping a 10-year-old boy, residents said.

The protest was triggered by a court order jailing three of the four rapists for up to 10 years and 100 lashes each and sentencing the fourth man to death, residents of the Dhamar town, about 100 km south of Sanaa, said.

The protesters belonged to the victim's tribe, while the defendants were from another tribe.

"Members of the (victim's) tribe are still coming into town. Most of them are armed and taking positions on a hill overlooking the town," a resident said.

An appeal court is set to hold a session on the case on Wednesday.

Yemen, where many carry weapons, is plagued with violence. At least 22 people were killed during and after parliamentary elections in April.

# Kurdish leaders fail again to end dispute in northern Iraq

CAIRO (AP) — Leaders of the two main Kurdish factions in northern Iraq again failed to end their dispute and form a joint administration for the autonomous enclave, Kurdish officials said Wednesday.

Senior representatives of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan met Monday and Tuesday in London with British officials in another effort to bring a durable peace to Iraq's northern Kurdish region.

But the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said no agreement was reached on the main issue — reestablishing "a unified government" for the enclave. Attempts to reach the two parties' leaders by telephone for comment were unsuccessful.

The two factions agreed to a cease-fire in April and promised to open negotiations on a permanent settlement to end fighting that started last year after Iraqi troops helped the KDP expel its rivals from the key city of Erbil.

The cease-fire was mediated by the United States. Turkey and Britain also have been mediating between the two groups to try to strengthen the truce. The U.S. and British effort is aimed at having the Kurds form a strong alliance against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Among the points of the Kurds' dispute are their relations with President Saddam and lucrative revenues from levies collected by the KDP from goods coming across the border from Turkey.

# King reveals letter on possible dialogue with Hamas sent to Netanyahu 48hrs before assault

(Continued from page 1)

accomplish our target, to save the life of that person."

During the assassination attempt, one of the two Israeli agents, attacked Mr. Misha'al and reportedly sprayed a "chemical substance" into his ear using a "strange instrument."

The King said that, following the assassination attempt, Mr. Netanyahu visited Amman with two of his senior ministers to express his regrets. The King said that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met with the three, Mr. Netanyahu, Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Minister of Infrastructure Ariel Sharon. The King said the three arrived in Jordan on the night of Sept. 29.

"I delegated my brother to meet them. They expressed their pain and regret because Jordan was treated (by Israel) in such a way and (pledged) that this will not be repeated again under any circumstances," the King said.

The King said Jordan would not accept "such methods in any circumstances."

"These acts are slaps in the face, and we will slap back."

The King confirmed news reports that Mr. Sharon arrived in Amman on Oct. 4 to conclude a deal and to arrange for the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, and the two Mossad agents who were detained by the authorities for their role in the assassination attempt.

He explained that Israel agreed to release "23 Jordanian prisoners. Of which nine are back [in Jordan] and the rest who live in the West Bank and carry Jordanian passports went back to their families, 50 Palestinian prisoners from the West Bank and Gaza will be released within days." The King added that the remainder of Jordanian prisoners will also be freed within two weeks.

The King said that Israel pledged to respect its peace treaty with Jordan in "letter and spirit."

The King said that he repeatedly called for the release of Sheikh Yassin from his detention, and "he was released to Jordan and received all necessary treatment before he left for Gaza."

The King said that part of the reason behind the decision to release the two Mossad agents was taking into accounts that there was no "weapon" found and no evidence found to allow for trial.

The factor that played the greatest role in the release of the two Israeli agents was that if they were sent to trial "it would not have been possible to save our son (Khaled Misha'al) nor could we have achieved other things," said the King, referring to the release of Sheikh Yassin and the prisoners.

Putting the blame on Mr. Netanyahu and other high-level Israeli officials, the King said that the two Israeli agents should not be blamed for the attack but those who ordered them to carry it out.

The conflict "is not with the two agents. Those are soldiers who carry out orders. The problem is with the party which gave orders for such an act. It bears the responsibility," the King said.

The King also explained that had Jordan adopted a tougher position following the incident, that would have backfired on the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, which were about to restart after a long impasse.

"We took also in consideration the current negotiations between the Palestinian leadership and the Israeli government. We did not want to put more pressure (on the Israelis), hoping that the talks would be fruitful," the King said.

He said that he received messages from Jews inside and outside of Israel as well as from people all over the world denouncing the attack against Mr. Misha'al.

"The dignity of the Jordanian citizen, his right to a secured life on his land and the dignity of the country are above all considerations," King said.

Regarding the Palestinian people, the King said that he will do whatever he could to enable them to acquire "their rights on their soil" adding that he will work hard to help in releasing more Palestinians from Israeli jails.

The King said that Jordan will never be a base for conspiracy against any country "nor will it be a base for harming anyone, whoever he may be." He stressed that Jordan will remain "secure" for its people and those who visit it.

The King greeted the bodyguard of Mr. Misha'al "for the courage he showed" and the Jordanian security forces for their efforts.

## King telephones Netanyahu to patch up ties

TEL AVIV (R) — King Hussein telephoned Benyamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to express his desire to patch up ties after the Israeli prime minister enraged Jordan by sending a hit squad to kill a Hamas leader in Amman, Mr. Netanyahu's office said. "Hussein again said he wants to work together with Prime Minister Netanyahu to rehabilitate ties between Jordan and Israel and to advance the peace process," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement. The statement said King Hussein telephoned while Mr. Netanyahu was holding talks with U.S. peace envoy Dennis Ross and was briefed on last night's snap summit between the Israeli leader and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. King Hussein called Mr. Netanyahu's attempt to assassinate Khaled Misha'al, a top leader of the Islamist group Hamas, in Amman on September 25 a "slap in the face" for Israel's closest Arab peace partner.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**
**Tel. 773111-19**

**PROGRAMME TWO**
14:10 ....New Kids on the Block
14:30 ....My Little Fairy Tale
15:00 America's Funniest People
15:30 ....He Shoots He Scores
16:00 ....I Love Lucy
16:30 The Boy From Andromeda
17:00 ....French Programmes
19:00 ....News in French
19:15 ....French Progammes
19:30 ....News Headlines
19:35 ....Trivial Pursiut
20:00 ....Parentbood
20:30 Lois and Clark — Superman
21:10 ....Oprah Winfrey Show
22:00 ....News in English
22:30 ....Feature Film
23:59 ....End of T.X.

## PRAYER TIMES

04:13 ....Fajr
05:30 ....(Sunrise) Duha
11:23 ....Dhuhr
14:42 ....'Asr
17:16 ....Maghreb
18:33 ....'Isha

## CHURCHES

**St. Mary of Nazareth Church** Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
**Assemblies of God Church** Tel. 632785.
**St. Joseph Church** Tel. 624590
**Church of the Annunciation** Tel. 637440.
**De la Salle Church** Tel. 661757.
**Terra Sancta Church** Tel. 622366
**Anglican Church** Tel. 652826.
**Armenian Catholic Church** Tel. 771331.
**Armenian Orthodox Church** Tel. 775261.
**St. Ephraim Church** Tel. 771751.
**Amman International Church** Tel. 5516245
**Evangelical Lutheran Church** Tel. 824328.
**German-speaking Evangelical Congregation** Tel. 688404
**The Latter-Day Saints** Tel. 654932.
**Church of Nazarene** Tel. 675691.
**The Evangelical Local Church in Amman** Tel. 811295
**English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish** Tel. 614190.

## WEATHER

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology*

Relative warm weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures rising further, winds appearing at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be relatively warm and accasionally cloudy, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amman | 18/31 |
| Aqaba | 21/34 |
| Deserts | 15/33 |
| Jordan Valley | 21/35 |

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 32 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**
**AMMAN:**
Dr. Abbas Al Hakim ....885446
Dr. Arafat Al Ashhab ....602507
Dr. Ayman Al Mahtaseb ....875748
Dr. Jamal Jbarah ....847351
Firas pharmacy ....661912
Ferdows pharmacy ....778336
Al Asema pharmacy ....637055
Nairoukh pharmacy ....623672
Al Salam pharmacy ....636730
Yacoub pharmacy ....644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ....637660
Najib pharmacy ....847632
**IRBID:**
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir ....276852
Al Quds pharmacy ....(—)
**ZARQA:**
Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid ....986702
Khalifeh pharmacy ....985417

## EMERGENCIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Food Control Centre | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defence Immediate Rescue | 630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 199 |
| Rescue Police | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | 617101 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | 896390 |
| Public Security Department | 630321 |
| Hotel Complaints | 605800 |
| Price Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage Complaints | 897467 |
| Amman Municipality Complaints | 787111 |
| Telephone Information (directory assistance) | 121 |
| Overseas Calls | 010230 |
| Central Amman Telephone Repairs | 623101 |
| Abdali Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Jordan Television | 773111 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111 |
| Water Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |
| Electric Power Company | 636381 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 |
| Queen Alia Intl. Airport | 08-53200 |

## HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**
Hussein Medical Centre ....813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, ....644281/6
Akileh Maternity, ....642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ....636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital ....669131
University Hospital ....845845
Al-Muasher Hospital ....667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali ....664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ....777101/3
Al-Bashir, ....775111/26
Army, Marka ....891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ....602240/50
Amal Hospital ....674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ...865199
**ZARQA:**
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ....(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ....(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ....(09)990990
**IRBID:**
Princess Basma Hospital ....(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital ....(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ....(02)247100
**AQABA:**
Princess Haya Hospital ....(03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

## ARRIVALS

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
07:05 ....Sanaa (RJ)
08:45 ....New Delhi (RJ)
09:05 ....Dhahran Riyadh (RJ)
09:05 ....Bombay (RJ)
09:25 ....Beirut (RJ)
09:40 ....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45 ....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 ....Colombo (RJ)
16:05 ....Moscow (RJ)
16:30 ....London (RJ)
16:40 ....Kuwait (RJ)
18:10 ....Athens (RJ)
18:20 ....Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
19:20 ....Rome (add) (RJ)
01:45 ....Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

**Other Flights**
07:50 ....Medan (EK)
12:00 ....Riyadh (SV)
12:55 ....Doha (GF)
13:30 ....Al 'Arish (PF)
13:40 ....Shariqah (AH)
15:00 ....Rome (AZ)
18:00 ....Dubai (EK)
18:50 ....Tel Aviv (LY)
20:00 ....Cairo (MS)
20:10 ....Beirut (ME)
23:20 ....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
04:40 ....London (BA)
08:00 ....Dubai (EK)

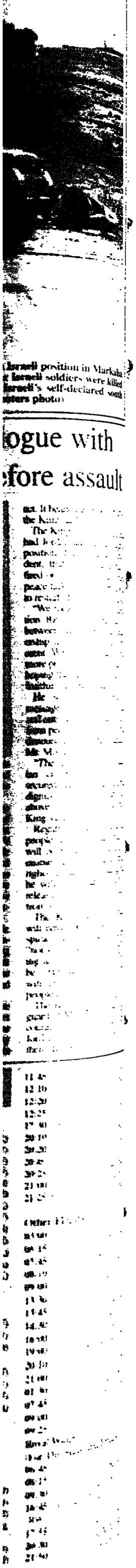
**Royal Wings (RW)**
**(For Thursday and Friday)**
07:45 ....Aqaba (RW)
09:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:20 ....Tel Aviv (RW)
18:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20 ....Aqaba (RW)
22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

## DEPARTURES

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
05:45 ....Beirut (RJ)
06:20 ....Moscow (RJ)
09:20 ....Rome (add) (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:30 ....Kuwait (RJ)
11:45 ....Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:10 ....Paris (RJ)
12:20 ....Athens (RJ)
12:25 ....London (RJ)
17:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:10 ....Cairo (RJ)
20:20 ....Laranca (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Jakarta (add) (RJ)
20:25 ....Jeddah (RJ)
21:00 ....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:25 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

**Other Flights**
03:00 ....Athens (OA)
05:15 ....Istanbul (TK)
07:45 ....Beirut (ME)
08:10 ....London (BA)
09:00 ....Amsterdam (GA)
13:30 ....Riyadh (SV)
13:45 ....Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:30 Annaba (Algeria) (AH)
16:00 ....Rome (AZ)
19:00 ....Damascus, Dubai (EK)
20:10 ....Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 ....Cairo (MS)
01:30 ....Amsterdam (KL)
07:45 ....Beirut (ME)
09:00 ....Dubai (EK)
09:25 ....London (BA)

**Royal Wings**
**(For Thursday and Friday)**
06:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15 ....Aqaba (RW)
09:30 ....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
16:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55 ....Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30 ....Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50 ....Aqaba (RW)



israeli position in Markaba
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israeli's self-declared south
ters photo)

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fore assault

# Queen attends international benefit dinner for needy children

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended an international benefit gala dinner for children in need at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, according to a press release Wednesday.

The dinner, which was held under the patronage of President Jacques Chirac, is an annual event organised by UNESCO to fund projects of the "World Education Programme for Children in Need," the announcement continued.

According to UNESCO estimates, more than 100 million children all over the world live a perilous existence in utter poverty. They include street children, refugees, and victims of war, exploited, and disabled children, the announcement read.

Members of the gala event's committee of honour included Queen Noor, King Hassan of Morocco, King Albert of Belgium, President Yasser Arafat and Czech President Vaclav Havel. Among the dignitaries attending the event were Princess Ghida Talal, Prince Mohammad, and Lalla Maryam of Morocco, the Crown Prince and Princess of Luxembourg, Nazek Hariri, and Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri and his wife, as well as French, European, and UNESCO officials, the statement continued.



The audience listens to the speakers at the seminar examining the life and works of the late former Prime Minister Samir Rifai (Petra photo)

# Seminar examines life, works of former Premier Samir Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on the life and work of the late Prime Minister Samir Rifai was opened at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Wednesday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who described the late premier as a brilliant statesman.

The late prime minister was a noted parliamentarian, politician, educator, and statesman who served under the late King Abdullah and His Majesty King Hussein, contributing to the creation of the Kingdom, said Dr. Majali.

In outlining the work of the late prime minister, Dr. Majali stated that Mr. Rifai, who died 32 years ago, served in a number of significant posts after 1944 and during his second mandate, the first Parliament composed of a senate and lower house was established in 1947.

Describing the late prime minister as a symbol of loyalty to the Hashemite throne, Dr. Majali said Mr. Rifai dealt with various political, parliamentary, social, and economic issues with objectivity, and as a prime minister, he was in close contact with the public.

Noting that the late premier served as president of the University of Jordan for some time, Dr. Majali said Mr. Rifai was instrumental in promoting the academic life in Jordan through the university, which was the first to be established in the country.

The seminar reviewed several working papers submitted in two sessions by prominent veteran politicians, focusing on the major achievements of the governments led by Mr. Rifai.

Among those attending the seminar were his son, former prime Minister and present Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, Cabinet members, parliamentarians, and politicians.

# Symposium examines water issues of Jordan, Middle East

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development (JSDCBD), the Jordan Environment Society (JES), and the Civil Defence Department Wednesday held a one-day symposium, entitled "Water: Scarcity or Excess Cause Disasters," in observation of World Day for Dealing with the Consequences of Natural Disasters.

JSDCBD President Abdul Latif Arabiyat opened the symposium with an address stating that water scarcity, as well as floods, are among the major challenges facing Jordan and the Middle East.

The need to deal with this issue through proper management of available water resources and the employment of modern technology should assume priority in this region to benefit present and future generations, Dr. Arabiyat said.

Any imbalances in water availability can result in the deterioration of food production and life on this planet, he added.

JES President Sufian Tell echoed Dr. Arabiyat's views, saying that Jordan has suffered from floods at some points and the lack of water and drought at others, causing heavy human losses and damage to the economy.

He said it is unfortunate to see that the meagre water resources available in the Middle East are being polluted, and floods causing extensive damage to agricultural products.

Working papers reviewed by the participants discussed the water situation in Jordan, water for irrigation, drought and floods, the development of the badia, desertification, and dealing with disasters resulting from floods.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL**

* Netherlands film "Oeroeg" at the Royal Cultural Centre, on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

**KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL**

* Two Korean films entitled "Fly High, Run Far" and "Marriage Story" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Friday respectively at 40:00 and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

**FILMS**

* "Los Gozos y Las Sombras" (pts 3 and 4) at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* "The Age of Innocence" at the American Centre, Abdoun on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

**PLAY**

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

**DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL**

THURSDAY ACTIVITIES

* Graphics by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadji at the South Hall.

* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qailoka at the Middle Hall.

* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

* Paintings by children of Zarqa reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

**EXHIBITIONS**

* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian paintings in the 90s" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

* Japanese pottery exhibition by Soei Obiya at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 9.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658696/7), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

# Measles vaccination programme to begin next week

AMMAN (Petra) — A nationwide measles vaccination campaign targeting almost 1.1 million children aged six to fifteen will be launched next Tuesday, according to Sa'd Kharabsheh, head of the disease control department at the Ministry of Health.

Addressing a press conference held at the Ministry, Dr. Kharabsheh said the month-long, $200,000 campaign will be implemented in accordance with the ministry's strategy of eradicating measles by the year 2009.

Health centres throughout the Kingdom and mobile vaccination teams will vaccinate children. Qualified health teams from the ministry, the Royal Medical Services, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will carry out the programme.

School children are an easy target for measles attacks, because the infection is easily transmitted, Dr. Kharabsheh said.

He said measles has been and is still a major child killer in Jordan, stating that it is an endemic disease in the country.

Since the inception of the national immunisation programme in 1981, Jordan succeeded in increasing the measles immunisation coverage to 95 per cent by 1996, in addition to reducing measles incidence rates.

He voiced hope that Jordan will be able to eradicate other childhood diseases, including polio, tetanus, and diphtheria.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Sheikh, King Hussein Bridges to close**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sheikh Hussein crossing post in the north Jordan Valley and the King Hussein Bridge will be closed for traffic as of Friday, October 10 until Sunday morning, according to Public Security Department sources. The sources said Sheikh Hussein Bridge will be closed from 10:00 a.m. Friday until 6:30 a.m. Sunday, while the King Hussein Bridge will be closed from Friday noon until 7:00 a.m. Sunday.

**Standards meeting to begin Sunday**

AMMAN (Petra) — Experts from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) Sunday will start a week-long meeting here with Jordanian experts to exchange ideas and expertise on developing advanced specifications and metrology specifications and quality assurance systems. Participants in the meeting, organised by GTZ in cooperation with the Meteorology and Specifications Corporation, will discuss such issues as certification of quality control laboratories, role of the standard European certification systems in promoting trade with non-European countries, industrial property rights, and public safety in factories.

# Information centres established to field public's election queries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Governor of Amman Talaat Nawaiseh Wednesday announced that his office has created information centres in each operations room in every district of the Amman Governorate to respond to public queries on election-related matters.

Mr. Nawaiseh said the telephones in the operations rooms have been assigned the following numbers that can be reached by the public:

First District/ Al Nuzha Vocational School — 635748

Second District/ Queen Noor School-Wahdat — 766855

Third District/ The Orthodox School-Shemisani — 613493

Fourth District/ National School for Women/ Queen Alia International Airport — 716706/716709

Fifth District/ The Applied Sciences University/ Shafa Badran — 836150/839996

Sixth District / Badia/ Polytechnic — 8867240/886970

The Ministry of Interior earlier swore in heads and members of the elections committees and ordered government employees of the Ministry of Finance and its departments and the Civil Registration and Passports Department to be at work Friday, Oct. 10, to receive applications from candidates running in the upcoming general elections.

During the three-day period for application registration to run in the elections, candidates should register at the governor's office and pay JD500 each to the Department of Finance in their respective district.

# Princess Basma opens new King Hussein Orphanage in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday inaugurated the new Irbid premises of the King Hussein Orphanage, which is funded by His Majesty King Hussein.

In an address at the inauguration ceremony, Princess Basma said the orphanage reflects the genuine sense of solidarity among the citizens of Irbid Governorate and shows their tendency to pursue acts of charity.

She voiced her appreciation of the efforts exerted by the orphanage governing board for their constant care accorded to the orphaned children.

Orphanage Board Chairman Abdul Razzak Tubeishat outlined the development of the King Hussein Orphanage Society and its services to orphaned children, including providing them with accommodation, food, clothing, and a familial environment.

Many orphaned children have completed their education and vocational training and are now counted as productive members of the Jordanian community, he said.

Paying tribute to King Hussein's efforts, Dr. Tubeishat said the King has contributed generously to the establishment of the orphanage and its continued services, thus enabling the board to save money, which was used to build an integrated shopping centre that provides a steady income to finance the orphans' needs.

Dr. Tubeishat also expressed appreciation to the local community members who have been donating to the orphanage, adding that the new premises of the orphanage are capable of dealing with any number of orphans from northern Jordan.

Part of the funds collected for the orphanage was used in the construction of a dormitory for female university students, and the rent they pay is covering part of the orphanage's expenses, he said.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Wednesday meets with some of the children at the King Hussein Orphanage in Irbid. She also inaugurated the new premises of the orphanage (Petra photo)

# Japan donates equipment for disabled at Ma'an centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has donated $9,000 worth of equipment related to the educational and vocational activities for the disabled to the Ma'an Centre of the Ministry of Social Development, according to a Japanese embassy press release Wednesday.

The equipment was presented to Firyal Akeel, director of the centre, by Kiichiro Kuno, acting representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Jordan. The presentation ceremony was held at the centre Wednesday and attended by Mr. Takashi Ashiki, counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Amman, the statement continued.

Within the framework of technical cooperation, including development surveys, the equipment provision programme, and dispatching experts and volunteers, the government of Japan supports the disabled in Jordan through the Ministry of Social Development, as well as local NGOs, according to the announcement.

The equipment provided under the equipment provision programme is expected to improve activities for the disabled at the centre, consisting of needlework, cooking, dairy care, drawing, and sports, the press release read.

Nozomi Yoshiike, a member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), seconded by JICA, has been assigned to the centre since July 1996. She is a specialist in nursing the disabled and has over 10 years of experience in the field. Upon Ms. Yoshiike's recommendations, the government of Japan has decided to provide equipment to facilitate her work and enhance the centre's programme and activities for the disabled, the statement continued.

Meanwhile, seven Japanese volunteers have been assigned as therapists and nurses to Jordan for the purpose of supporting the disabled in the Kingdom, the statement read.

Two other volunteers from JICA have been working in the Ma'an governorate. Machiko Ando has given needlework lessons to women at the Ma'an Centre of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development since December 1996, and Takako Katsumoto, Public Health Nurse at the Ma'an Centre of the Ministry of Health, arrived last July to help improve medical conditions in Ma'an along with her Jordanian colleagues, the announcement continued.

In remarks following the presentation ceremony, Mr. Ashiki stated: "Earlier this year the government of Japan provided physiotherapy equipment to the Ma'an Disabled Care Centre. Today's donation is also expected to contribute to improving the conditions of the disabled in Ma'an. We will continue to support the disabled and their families in the Kingdom, hoping that such kinds of assistance will help improve educational and vocational activities for the disabled in Jordan," the statement concluded.

# New publication details Red Cross efforts to visit prisoners

By Hind-Lara Mango
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which since 1979 has had access to approximately 25,910 prisoners in civil and military detention facilities in Jordan, this week issued "Seeds of Hope," a publication detailing routine visits to detainees in the Kingdom.

According to this publication, regular visits are carried out to detention zones, where the ICRC has access to security prisoners under investigation, awaiting trial, or serving time, regardless of their nationality or reasons for incarceration.

"Jordan is among the few Arab countries that accept the ICRC to visit security prisoners," Mu'in Kassis, an information and dissemination official at the ICRC, stated.

Mr. Kassis told the Jordan Times that the ICRC follows individual cases of security detainees through bi-monthly visits to the detention section at the General Intelligence Department (GID) and other detention areas.

A regular procedure is followed for all detainees, regardless of the place of detention, stated the ICRC official.

The first step, he said, is an initial meeting between the ICRC and responsible authorities.

"The aim is for the authorities to provide us with relevant information on problems facing them," Mr. Kassis said, adding that "authorities give the ICRC delegation lists of detainees present or transferred to other detention zones since the ICRC's last visit."

The ICRC delegation, accompanied by an official, then tours the premises of the detention area, to check on bathrooms, workshops, kitchens, and the like. Private meetings take place between the ICRC delegation and the detainee without the presence of a witness, he said.

At these meetings, prisoners are asked about their living conditions, and if they have any problems, "detainees can send and receive ICRC messages to or from their families," the publication states.

Findings are then discussed with the authorities in charge and a proposal is submitted noting possible recommendations for action.

"The aim of these reports is to provide the authorities with an assessment of the detention facility and suggest improvements according to recognised worldwide humanitarian standards," Mr. Kassis explained.

He stressed that these reports are confidential and are not made public by either the ICRC or the authorities.

Visitation terms govern the ICRC's regular visits and the publication explains that these include access to all detainees in detention areas, and free questioning of prisoners without the presence of a witness.

Repeated visits are allowed according to needs, and follow-ups to individual cases are also part of these terms, as well as the transmission of personal news between detainees and families, and the provision of material assistance if needed.

The ICRC is independent of all governments and international organisations and is impartial, neutral, and detached from all political issues related to conflict, Mr. Kassis concluded.

# Koreas sign landmark agreement on aviation

SEOUL (AFP) — South and North Korea concluded a landmark agreement Wednesday that would allow commercial airlines to overfly each other's territory for the first time since their division in 1945, officials here said.

"This is a landmark accord in a non-political relations between the two Koreas," said a statement released here by the Ministry of Construction and Transportation.

The agreement was signed in Bangkok between the two Koreas on the same day North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il was named as the head of the state's ruling party, ending a three-year official power vacuum since his father died.

"The agreement was signed today in Bangkok. Maybe North Korea timed it together with Kim Jong-Il's appointment," a ministry official said.

He said the agreement would take effect April 3, 1988.

The ministry statement said the two Koreas had agreed to use a land-based phone line as the primary means of contact and satellite services as an auxiliary tool to monitor overflights and keep in touch.

South Korea had been insisting on the use of land-based phone lines, which they believe are less prone to interruptions and less expensive to maintain, while the North wanted two satellite services — Asiasat and Intersat.

But in case of emergencies, the two sides also agreed on direct phone lines using Asiasat II.

When the new routes open next year, Seoul-U.S. and Seoul-China flights would be cut by up to 30 minutes and the North would earn some five million dollars annually from overflight fees.

The aviation talks were prompted by North Korea's decision to open its air space to international flights, with a pledge to provide safety and prompt search and rescue operations in the case of flights in distress.

The two Koreas, still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended in the signing of a truce but not a peace agreement, held the Bangkok talks under the auspices of the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Two previous rounds of aviation talks last year and in March this year stalled without agreement. South Korea's two main commercial airlines immediately welcomed the agreement, saying it would help cut costs, especially on flights to the Russian far east and on polar flights elsewhere.

Yonhap News Agency quoted an official of Korean Air as saying that the agreement would cut fuel costs, although he doubted it would bring down ticket prices.

"But the most important thing is the significant fact that we will be flying through North Korean skies," Yonhap quoted him as saying.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth is escorted on a tonga, a horse driven open carriage, by Pakistan's President Farooq Leghari to deliver a speech to the National Assembly in Islamabad (Reuter photo)

# Queen Elizabeth II urges India, Pakistan to be friends

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II Wednesday called for Pakistan and India to end 50 years of rivalry, insisting a rapprochement between the Commonwealth neighbours would open up vast opportunities.

In a speech to a special sitting of the two houses of the Pakistan parliament, the British monarch said Pakistan and India have a "leading role" to play in realising South Asia's "full potential."

The queen arrived Tuesday for a six-day state visit to mark Pakistan's 50th year of independence. She will also go to India which is celebrating the same anniversary after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947 ended British rule.

The queen said the two countries could help make the "vision" a reality.

She did not refer specifically to the Kashmir dispute, a malignant tumour in Indo-Pakistan relations, but welcomed recently opened bilateral talks urging them to settle "historic" disagreements.

"It is surely right, on this 50th anniversary of the independence of both countries, to take stock and renew efforts to end historic disagreements," she told a packed house attended by over 200 MPs.

The queen, who goes to India Sunday, delivered the key address after a welcome speech by National Assembly Speaker, Illahi Bakhsh Soomro, underlining the significance of her participation in the national independence celebrations.

The house rose as she walked in. The queen stood flanked by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari and Mr. Soomro as the two countries' national anthems were played. The proceedings started with a recitation from the Koran.

The audience included Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his cabinet colleagues and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto. The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook sat together in the gallery.

"We all know, from experience, that animosity retards development... that development requires trust ... that lack of trust closes off opportunities," the 71-year-old monarch said.

"There are few areas of the world where development is so acutely needed as in this subcontinent.

"It brings the friends of both countries only pleasure to see the commitment both have made this year to solve contentious issues through talks."

"Britain, as a friend of both, can only urge a new spirit of openness and understanding, of dedication to peaceful solutions," she said.

Advising patience, the queen said reconciliation will take time, but the effort "must" be made, adding: "I am convinced it will be worthwhile for the more than one billion inhabitants of the two countries."

"There are few things that would do more to unleash the region's potential than the lifting of the barriers between its two largest nations," she said.

Mr. Leghari, speaking at a banquet attended by the queen Tuesday, underscored the issue of Kashmir was central to Indo-Pakistan ties, urging the world to take notice of the situation in the troubled Himalayan state.

Kashmir, divided between Pakistan and India and claimed by both, has been a catalyst for the two of the three wars between the neighbours in the past. The border in Kashmir remains a traditional flashpoint.

The president slammed what he called "cruel oppression" in Kashmir — a reference to the eight-year-old Muslim separatist campaign in the disputed region's Indian part that has claimed more than 20,000 lives.

India blames the turmoil on Pakistan, which denies the charge and calls the drive a legitimate struggle for self-determination vowing political and moral support.

Queen Elizabeth, stressing the need for regional cooperation, noted that contacts between nations in Europe, North America and in South East Asia had boosted the prosperity of them all.

She vowed continued support to Pakistan's economic development, calling for investment in education in the country, which has a literacy rate of around 30 per cent, and where one fifth of population has been hit by extreme poverty.

# *U.K. Labour's new women accuse Tories of sexism*

LONDON (R) — Sniggering male members of Britain's parliament are making life tough for a regiment of newly elected Labour women deputies, Labour officials said Wednesday.

They accused opposition Conservative MPs of repeatedly taunting women colleagues with sexist jibes about their dress, appearance and fitness for the job.

A record 119 women were elected to parliament in May — 101 of them representing the victorious Labour Party — transforming the face of what was known as the best "gentlemen's club" in London.

"Some of the worst examples are crude sexual innuendo and abuse... But the softer examples include telling women to get back to the kitchen or 'go home and cook your husband's dinner'," said Labour MP Bridget Prentice.

Other Labour women said they had been taunted with offers to "come outside and we'll show you a good time."

The women said they planned to shame the men into silence by scanning videotapes of proceedings in the House of Commons and reporting the worst offenders to the speaker Betty Boothroyd for possible disciplinary action.

"It is about time they realised the world has changed and leave their (private) school sniggering behind them," Labour MP Margaret Hodge told BBC Radio.

Conservative MPs disagreed over the level of sexism. Veteran Teddy Taylor accepted that some of his colleagues could be labelled chauvinists.

But Conservative Michael Fabricant said that teasing was part of the rough and tumble of political life.

"These new MPs will have to get used to a fair amount of abusive comment. If they can't take the heat they shouldn't go in the kitchen," he said.

# Russian father, son say adrift six months at sea

BANGKOK (R) — A Russian man and his son landed a crippled yacht on a Thai holiday island, saying they had survived nearly six months adrift without supplies, police and hospital sources said Wednesday.

The two said they had survived on fish and rainwater before running ashore on the southern island of Phuket Sunday.

Vladmir Medvedev, 44, and his 16-year-old son, Maxim, told police they had set sail in their 15-metre yacht from Russia in August 1995 on an around-the-world trip.

The elder Medvedev told Reuters their food ran out nearly six months ago, forcing them to survive on rainwater and fish.

"I in trouble... Six months no food, little sail, little sail," he told Reuters in broken English from his hospital bed in Phuket.

The pair told police they had sailed to Canada, the United States, Brazil and Africa.

After leaving Cape Town, South Africa, their last port of call, they ran into trouble in the Indian Ocean. Their yacht hit an unknown object damaging their engine and leaving them adrift.

The Bangkok Post newspaper said the Russians had told a doctor they used telecommunications antennae as spears and rods to catch fish and prawns.

The doctor told the newspaper the two were underweight and dehydrated but otherwise healthy.

# Taleban step up beatings

KABUL (AFP) — Beard trimmer checks in the Afghan capital have been stepped up with hardline Muslim Taleban teams dealing out painful beatings to men with inadequate facial hair, residents said Wednesday.

Locals told AFP that new inspection posts have been set up in residential areas, the city centre and on roads exiting Kabul dedicated to checking for violators of the militia's strict ruling on beards.

"They checked my beard and decided it was too short so I was beaten six times on each hand with a steel cable," reported one victim, complaining he could hardly clench his fists due to the severe bruising on his palms.

He said he was punished Tuesday along with tens of others in the Microrayan housing estate, where a team of Taleban fighters had established a check point in a crowded shopping area.

"The beatings have been so hard that people are avoiding going to the market," added another local victim from the district.

Another resident, also suffering from badly swollen hands and tender fingers, said his short beard was noticed in the city centre, where he received a lashing of the hands with a rubber hose.

Tens of other incidents have been reported in other districts of war-shattered Kabul in the past week, including increasing checks on the southern and western exits of the city where bus passengers are checked.

Residents revealed the instruments used for punishment — mostly a beating of the hands and occasionally the back or legs — include hefty steel cables, lengthy rubber hoses and leather whips.

New checkposts have also been spotted in recent weeks outside the justice ministry, which is headed by the zealous Mullah Nurrudin Turabi.

Mr. Turabi won fame when he personally supervised the mass roundup and brief imprisonment of 700 beard trimming bus passengers in a town close to Kabul only three months ago.

The other beard inspection posts are believed to be operated by either Turabi loyalists or by the separate Department for the Promotion of Virtue and Suppression of Vice, the Taleban's religious police force.

The Taleban have held Kabul for one year, implementing what they consider to be a "pure Islamic state" in the once relatively liberal city.

Part of the Taleban's Islamic revolution here includes a ruling that men cannot shave or trim their beards, an interpretation of the "Sunnat" (traditions) of the Prophet Mohammad.

So far this year, Taleban-run Radio Shariat has announced the arrest, punishment or sacking from government posts of around 1,300 alleged beard trimmers in and around Kabul.

However, with the latest round of beatings going unreported by the Taleban's mouthpiece, the true figure is believed to be far higher.

In the past a brief and symbolic beating with a lengthy rubber hose was the usual prescription for violators, but the victims describe the latest crackdown as notable due to its severity.

# Diana crash probe to check 112,000 Fiat Unos

PARIS (AFP) — Police probing the crash which killed Princess Diana are checking a list of 112,000 Fiat Unos, the make of car which may have collided with Diana's limousine just before the tragedy, sources close to the investigation said Wednesday.

The list includes every Fiat Uno registered in the Ile-de-France region around Paris from 1983-1994, the entire period when the Italian car was manufactured.

Analysis of evidence found at the scene of the Aug. 31 crash in a Paris underpass has suggested the involvement of a Fiat Uno, believed to be white, just before Diana's Mercedes limousine slammed into a concrete pillar at high speed.

In particular they have found traces of paint on the front right wing of the Mercedes, as well as on the right wing mirror, which was found 30 metres away from the wreck of the limousine, after apparently having been torn off.

Police also found fragments of a tail light some distance ahead of the crash scene, which were also found to have come from a Fiat Uno.

Some witnesses interviewed by police have reported that a vehicle may have got in the way of the Mercedes shortly before the crash, which killed 36-year-old Diana, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul.

The only survivor of the crash, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, suffered partial amnesia as a result of the crash and has so far been unable to tell investigators any details of the accident itself.

# Karabakh leader says status dispute should not delay peace process

STEPANAKERT, Azerbaijan (AFP) — The new leader of the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh enclave in Azerbaijan has suggested delaying a final agreement on the disputed territory's political status, leaving the door open for further negotiations.

Arkady Gukasyan, who was elected "president" of the Armenian-populated enclave last month, ruled out any return of the territory to Azerbaijani control, and criticised a peace plan proposed by the so-called Minsk Group — France, Russia and the United States — under the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) auspices.

But at a news conference Tuesday in Nagorno-Karabakh's main town, Stepanakert, Mr. Gukasyan told reporters: "We'll take part in any talks provided our hands are not tied."

Separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh — an enclave of Christian ethnic Armenians inside Muslim Azerbaijan — drove out government forces in a 1988-1994 war that killed 20,000 people and saw the flight of the enclave's ethnic Azeri population.

A shaky ceasefire has been in effect since May 1994.

The Minsk Group has put forward a draft settlement that would grant the territory a high degree of autonomy.

"The fact that Nagorno-Karabakh didn't accept the plan proposed by the OSCE's Minsk Group doesn't mean we are against a comprehensive settlement," Mr. Gukasyan said.

He said a reference to Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan, contained in the peace plan proposed by OSCE, was unacceptable.

But he added: "If we don't resolve the status question today, let's agree on the general outlines of Nagorno-Karabakh's status and adopt a memorandum on the future status.

"Let's also agree on a transitional period — how Nagorno-Karabakh will live. "We have no guarantee that the status question will be resolved in the next five to 10 years. So some elements of that status must be reflected already in the draft agreement."

During talks with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov in the Azeri capital Baku Tuesday, Azeri President Geidar Aliyev gave a "positive" assessment of the Minsk Group's proposals, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Armenia provided the separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh with logistical and military support throughout the six-year war.

# *Chicago absolves O'Leary's cow in fire*

CHICAGO (AFP) — After 126 years of bearing the blame for the great Chicago fire, Catherine O'Leary's cow finally has been exonerated.

Legend had it that the cow kicked over a lantern while being milked, causing the devastating fire that raged from Oct. 8-10, 1871, killing 300 people and consuming much of this lakefront city.

But the city council voted Monday to set the record straight and remove any guilt from the bovine and her owner.

"Mrs. Kate O'Leary and her cow are innocent of any blame for the fire that raged behind their house," said Alderman Ed Burke.

"We always knew that she was innocent," said Nancy Knight Connolly, the great-great-granddaughter of O'Leary. "But everybody else thought they did it. So now we'll be exonerated."

Part of the credit for the research leading to the exoneration goes to amateur historian Richard Bales, who noted that the evidence pointing to the cow came from a neighbour, Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, who first reported seeing the fire from a neighbour's front steps.

Mr. Bales argued that Mr. Sullivan's line of sight would be blocked.

Professor Carl Smithy of northwestern university suggested that determining who started the fire might be impossible with only this historical record but said O'Leary, who died in 1895, deserved some measure of exoneration.

"She, like the cow, innocent or not, has suffered enough," he said.

# *Scientists keep close eye on new human flu virus*

LONDON (R) — Scientists are keeping a close eye on a new influenza virus found in Hong Kong which is similar to strains that killed more than 22 million people this century.

So far, the death of a three-year-old boy in Hong Kong in May is an isolated case. But health organisations around world have been alerted because the potential of the new virus for causing a pandemic, or global epidemic, in humans is unknown.

"I do not think it is a serious threat, not at this moment." Albert Osterhaus of the National Influenza Centre of the Netherlands, said in an interview.

"But these viruses have, in principle, potential to be pandemic viruses."

More than 20 million people died in the world's worst global flu epidemic — the Spanish flu of 1918. Nearly 40 years later one million succumbed to the Asian flu and in 1967 the Hong Kong flu claimed 700,000 lives.

Scientists do not know what causes a flu pandemic. They believe the new strain originates in birds or pigs and then crosses over to humans who have no immunity against it.

Advances in technology have allowed them to identify new lethal viruses in humans and to launch global warning systems and immunisations programmes.

Many virologists believe another pandemic is already overdue.

Mr. Osterhaus and his colleagues examined the virus that was isolated from the respiratory tract of the boy who died in May. They confirmed that it was a new virus that had not been seen in humans before.

In a letter published in the scientific journal Nature Wednesday, he explained that the viruses responsible for earlier pandemics involved strains from birds that carried a combination of two viral envelope glycoproteins, haemagglutinin (h) and neuramidase (n).

The h1n1, h2n2 and h3n2 combinations caused the previous three major epidemics.

The new virus which virologists identified as h5n1 has a similar combination, and doctors believe the child may have caught it while visiting a chicken farm a week before he became ill.

Experts from the World Health Organisation are investigating a similar virus that has killed chickens in Hong Kong to determine if the boy's case was a direct spillover and if there are other people infected with it.

"The contribution of the influenza a h5n1 virus infection to his death is not yet clear. But the virus identification is important as the first documented isolation of an influenza a virus of this subtype in humans," said Mr. Osterhaus.

So far no other cases have been reported and doctors do not know why the child caught it.

"We have seen in the past similar viruses spilling over from other animal species, including birds and pigs, and these events have led to pandemic spread of such viruses, but at this moment we do not know why the virus is not spreading among people."

Mr. Osterhaus said early news of the new flu strain proved that the international influenza surveillance network set up by the World Health Organisation works. He also emphasised the importance of closely monitoring this and other similar viruses in the future.

# Belarus frees Russian reporter

MINSK (R) — Belarus Wednesday freed a Russian television correspondent whose detention had severely dented ties between Moscow and Minsk, telling him not to leave the country.

Pavel Sheremet, a reporter for Russia's ORT television channel, was released overnight from investigative custody in a regional jail, state television said.

"Sheremet was taken in handcuffs and dropped near his home at midnight. He had no idea he was going to be released," a local journalist who spoke with Mr. Sheremet after his release said.

State television said he had been freed because the criminal case against him was complete. He had been told not to leave the country.

President Alexander Lukashenko told his prosecutor general Saturday to free Mr. Sheremet, who was detained in July and accused of trying to cross the border with Lithuania illegally.

Belarussian authorities said he had filmed the report without permission.

Strict laws on border territories in the former Soviet Republic say "violations" of such zones are punishable by five years' imprisonment.

The rest of Mr. Sheremet's three-man crew, and another crew who returned to the border to film again, were also arrested but have since been released.

Mr. Sheremet said he had not been beaten since his detention but that he had suffered repeated taunting at the hands of prison guards. He was denied television or radio and his food supplies were sometimes cut back.

Mr. Lukashenko has been coming under strong fire from the West for his human rights record, especially since he used a referendum win last November to vastly increase his powers.

Usually friendly Moscow has joined the chorus of criticism recently over Mr. Sheremet's detention, which led to his aircraft being barred from entering neighbouring Russia last Thursday.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin made clear there was a link between the snub and Mr. Sheremet's detention.



Bosnian Croat Dario Kordic (right) enters the courtroom at the International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague (Reuter photo)

# Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect pleads innocent

THE HAGUE (AFP) — A wartime Bosnian Croat leader pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity levelled against him by the U.N. tribunal.

Following intense international pressure, Dario Kordic, one of Bosnia's most-wanted war crimes suspects, surrendered to the court Monday, together with nine other Bosnian Croats accused of war crimes.

Mr. Kordic, the Croat political leader in the central Bosnian Lasva Valley, is accused with other political and military officials of planning the campaign of brutal ethnic cleansing that swept hundreds of thousands of Muslims from the region in 1992 and 1993, notably in the village of Ahmici where more than 100 people were slain.

Three of Mr. Kordic's co-defendants also pleaded not guilty Wednesday. They were Pero Skopljak, police chief in the town of Vitez; Ivan Santic, its mayor; and Mario Cerkez, a senior officer of what was then the Bosnian Croat Army.

The six other Croats who flew into The Hague on the same aircraft as Mr. Kordic were to appear before the court later Wednesday to enter a plea.

All former Bosnian Croat militia members, they are charged with carrying out a wave of attacks against Muslims in villages in the Lasva Valley.

Their surrender has provoked a bitter backlash in Croatia, where the authorities backed the Bosnian Croats throughout the war.

Croats in the southern Herzegovina city of Mostar, left divided by the war, said they felt betrayed by the 10's surrender which they said would be seen as condemnation of all Bosnian Croats.

They protest that top Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects such as former political and military leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are still at large.

General Tihomir Blaskic, whose trial began on June 24 before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), is also charged jointly, but his case is being treated separately and he did not attend Wednesday's hearing.

Zlatko Aleksovski, who is also part of the Kordic group and is being held in U.N. custody near The Hague, was also absent.

The court said he too would be tried separately on the grounds he has the right to a swift hearing. However, the court of first instance which is considering his case could instead rule that he should be tried with the others jointly accused.

As the court intensified its efforts to bring indicted war criminals to justice in line with the 1995 Dayton peace accords that ended the Bosnian conflict, Tuesday, the court threw out an appeal by the first Bosnian to be sentenced for crimes against humanity.

Judges at the court rejected the appeal by Drazen Erdemovic against a 10-year sentence and a separate bid for his acquittal.

However, they conceded he might have been badly advised at his trial last year when he pleaded guilty to crimes against humanity, and said he could have a new trial if he changed his plea.

# 'Game Boy' developer Yokoi dies

TOKYO (AFP) — Gumpei Yokoi, the brain behind Nintendo's Game Boy computer toy which took Christmas stockings by storm, has died in a traffic accident aged 56, associates said Wednesday.

Yokoi joined Nintendo Co. Ltd. in 1965, when the Kyoto-based company was still only a maker of playing cards.

He headed the team that developed the best-selling hand-held game machine which turned Nintendo into a major toy manufacturer. Between its launch in April 1989 and March 1997, 55 million Game Boys were sold.

But Yokoi quit the firm in August last year. Reports said he left to assume responsibility for sluggish sales of the 32-bit game machine Virtual Boy, which he also helped develop.

Details of the accident were not available. His company telephone repeated a recorded message saying it was closed through Thursday due to a funeral service.

Yokoi, who was married and leaves one son, set up his own company in Kyoto in September last year.

Yokoi was born in Kyoto, became interested in electronics from an early age and majored in electrical studies. In his later life he acquired a taste for the piano and sports cars.

He started his career at Nintendo in the electric maintenance department and spent his free time designing toys. Yokoi was soon promoted as almost all toys he made became a success.

Game Boy became an instant hit because of its small size and retail price of less than $100.

With its two-inch-square liquid crystal display screen and cartridge-type software, it was about half the price of those used in home video games played on television sets.

Nintendo sold nearly 600,000 Game Boys in the first four months in Japan before marketing it in the United States in July 1989 where the company repeated its success.

Schoolboys particularly loved the machine, but many adults also became addicted, especially to the "Tetris" game developed by a Russian computer jockey.

Teenagers always wore headphones to listen to the stereo sound effects, while other innovative features included a head-to-head combat between two players by connecting two terminals.

Japanese schools asked shops not to sell new Nintendo software during school hours in a bid to prevent children skipping classes.

During the Gulf war, American soldiers preparing for a battle with Iraqi army played the Game Boy to take their minds off the tension.

The "Tetris" was the only software which came with the machine, but its simple game of fitting descending blocks in different shapes together attracted game addicts.

Game Boy soon had other hits though with "Super Mario Land" and "Pocket Monster."

Nintendo has been trying to recreate the success with a remodelled version half the size of the original Game Boy. It has a contract with Japanese toy maker, Bandai, to introduce "Tamagotchi" electronic pet games for Game Boy.

# Great writers sometimes overlooked for Nobel literature prize

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The Nobel Prize for Literature, which will be announced today, is considered the most prestigious literary award in the world, but over the years a number of great writers have been overlooked.

Each October, the Swedish Academy selects a writer who has produced "the most outstanding work of an idealistic tendency," elevating him to the glorious ranks of Nobel literature laureates that include Albert Camus, Samuel Beckett, Jean-Paul Sartre (who declined the prize), Ernest Hemingway, William Faulkner, Herman Hesse, T.S. Eliot, William Butler Yeats and Rudyard Kipling.

But many famed writers have never been bestowed the prize, first awarded in 1901. Among these are James Joyce, Leo Tolstoy, Marcel Proust, Graham Greene, Joseph Conrad, Franz Kafka, Ezra Pound, D.H. Lawrence, W.H. Auden, and Paul Valery.

The prize was awarded posthumously once, in 1931 to Sweden's Erik Axel Karlfeldt, but the academy's statutes were then changed and it has not been awarded after death since.

Experts note that many of those who never won the prize merely died before the academy got around to rewarding them. Others point out that the academy, whose renown abroad is largely limited to its Nobel selection, is not tasked with predicting whose literature will be significant in the future, but with rewarding outstanding bodies of work.

"The Nobel Prize is not always a historical reflection of the time and it is not awarded for posterity," Gillian Beer, a senior professor of English literature at Cambridge University's Clare Hall and chairman of this year's Booker Prize, told AFP.

"Literary prizes are very much the temper of the time, so it is not altogether surprising that some people have been overlooked," she said, noting that Proust's writings are "cumulative, full of nuances and difficult to judge."

While other literature prizes exist, the Nobel is considered the most prestigious.

"It is 'the prize'. It calls attention to a writer and makes that writer available to a much greater audience," Ms. Beer said.

The Nobel is "certainly well worth its prestige and honour," said Bernard O'Donoghue, a teacher of English literature at Oxford University's Wadham College.

The academy has "by and large done well to combine literary elements with people who are in an interesting position in the world, spreading the prize around countries and continents," he added.

But Colin Burrow, a lecturer at Cambridge University's Gonville and Caius College, is critical of the academy's international tendencies.

Underlining that the prize "brings writers of the world to central attention," Mr. Burrow argues the academy's choices have been "dominated by a desire to look international, rather than to reward greatness."

"If one looks to the past, it is clear that there are people who have been overlooked," he stressed, calling Joyce "the greatest writer of prose in the 20th century."

The Irish writer, who wrote about sex and whose "Ulysses" was banned, did not win the prize because of "his experimental and untraditional writing," Mr. Burrow said, accusing the prize committee of "shrinking away from controversy."

The Nobel prize has occasionally gone to lesser-known writers.

While several of these have received more exposure after winning the prize — Halldor Laxness of Iceland in 1952, Australia's Patrick White in 1973, Jaroslav Seifert of Czechoslovakia in 1984 and Saint Lucia poet Derek Walcott in 1992 — the Nobel is a reward, not a career-maker.

The literature prize is, along with the peace prize, the only Nobel whose worthiness the general public can readily judge. As a result, speculation is always rife over who will be honoured.

Among the names circulating this year are Portuguese authors Jose Saramago and Antonio Lobo Antones, Dutch-language author Hugo Klaus of Belgium, Cees Nooteboom and Harry Milisch of the Netherlands, Jaan Kross of Estonia, V.S. Naipaul of Trinidad, and Chinese author living in exile in Paris, Bei Dao.

Others include American novelist Thomas Pynchon, Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie and American author Norman Mailer.

# Body 'spare parts' may become a reality

LONDON (AFP) — New technology involving growing new tissue from body cells should allow scientists to replicate any human organ in order to use them as "body spares," according to an article Wednesday in the daily The Times.

The technique, marketed by Advanced Tissue Sciences, a company in San Diego, California, run by U.S. scientist Gail Naughton, had previously allowed scientists to grow human skin used in grafts but it can now be used to grow bones, cartilage and tissue, the article quoted Ms. Naughton as saying.

The only organ that has defied the new technique is kidneys.

"This is not science fiction. Now that we have worked out the technology, there is no limit to what we can do," she told The Times.

She said the engineering process involves making a mesh of biodegradable suture material similar to that used by surgeons and then using healthy tissue cells that are grown in an incubator that replicates conditions in the womb.

"You have to mimic the body's environment and then the cells grow normally," Ms. Naughton said, adding that the cells are fed a mixture of vitamins, glucose, amino acids and serum proteins in order to grow at the same pace as they would in the womb.

Since the cells are alive they continue to grow inside the body. As such, a new hip can adapt to fit perfectly inside a patient's body as opposed to an artificial limb made of metal and plastic.

The first product from the new technology is a skin graft that can heal foot ulcers in diabetes, The Times said.

Ms. Naughton said that knee replacements based on the method would take place within the next nine months in Britain and the United States.

"This will have enormous advantages for sportsmen who can be put out of action by a serious injury for a very long time," she said. "We have already successfully transplanted such joints into sheep and rabbits and there is no reason now why we cannot do the same for humans."

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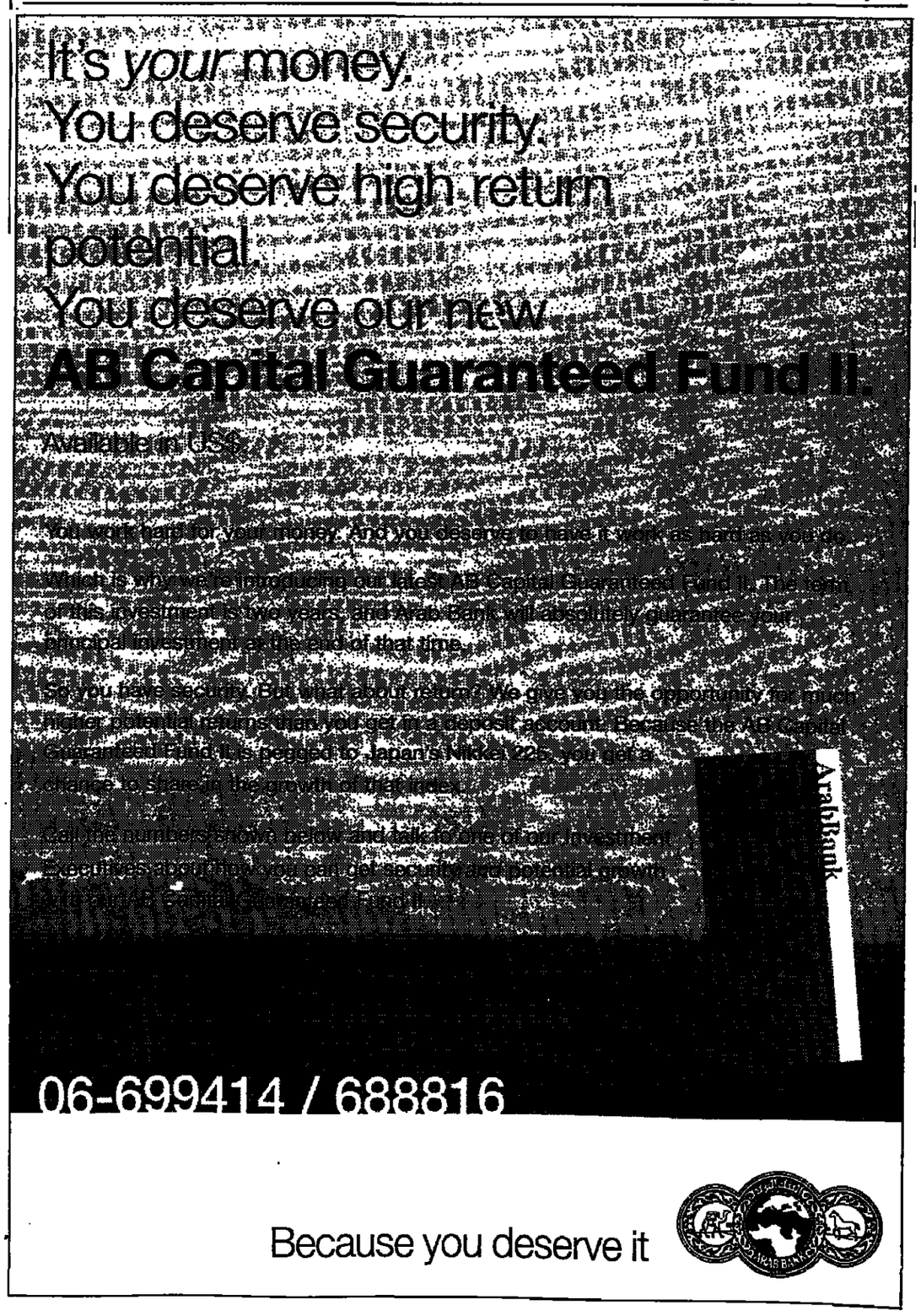
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## Putting the pieces together

**HIS MAJESTY King Hussein has made Amman, and rightly so, his last stop on his cross-country visits which began several weeks ago.**

**The King used the occasion to reaffirm that elections will be held on time on Nov. 4. By doing so, the King dispelled any suggestion that the elections would be delayed and the outgoing Parliament be restored for another year or two. Jordanians should henceforth prepare themselves for these elections and turn *out in strength on election day to choose their* representatives to the 13th Parliament.**

**The other prominent pronouncement by the King was his disclosure that the Israeli prime minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, accompanied by two of his senior ministers did visit Amman in the aftermath of the attempt on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al to explain their action. The Monarch was obviously too angry with the Israeli leader to even see him. Instead the visiting Israelis met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who was asked by the King to receive them. His Majesty could not be faulted for this reaction since the attack that Netanyahu ordered infringed on Jordanian sovereignty and was an affront to all the tremendous and dedicated efforts that this country has made to bring peace and stability to the states and peoples of this region, including Israel and the Israelis. Not that the Crown Prince wanted to see Netanyahu & Co. either. Prince Hassan was quoted in the Washington Post this week as saying he was still feeling nauseated by what happened.**

**Nevertheless Jordan skillfully used the Israeli blunder to breathe new life into the peace process. Not only did Netanyahu express regret over his reckless action, which humbled him at *home and on the international arena. He had to* release Hamas' senior leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and scores of Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners. Yesterday's meeting between Netanyahu and President Yasser Arafat must also be seen as a direct result of the debacle.**

**Meanwhile, nothing would restore Jordanian-Israeli relations to where they had been prior to the foiled attempt on the Hamas leader than an ironclad assurance that Israel will never again threaten Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Israeli prime minister has also to make good on his pledge to move forward in a meaningful way on the Palestinian track.**

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Ra'i's** Munes Razzaz has condemned the behaviour of Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu who, he said, instead of apologising for sending his Mossad agents into Jordan to commit criminal acts, has emphatically said he would not stop chasing what he called terrorists everywhere. Everywhere also means Jordan which Netanyahu seems to believe would be incapable of fighting back and fending off acts of aggression or terrorism, said Razzaz. Netanyahu should know that Jordan can cause far more trouble to Israel than that caused by Lebanon, and it is not ready to ensure the protection of Israel, the writer said. The leader of the Israeli Labour Party Ehud Barak has said Netayahu is now swamped in mud but refuses to admit it and to reflect on his failed adventures, insisting instead of carry on the fight, anywhere, against those he calls terrorists, said Razzaz. Neither can Jordan save Netanyahu from his debacle nor can the Palestinian people serve as policemen, protecting Netanyahu and his people from Hamas, the writer said. He said Jordan and the Palestinians will not try to rescue Netanyahu from the deep trouble he put himself is as a result of his aggressive attitude and his government's rash actions.

**Al Ra'i's** Samir Qtami criticised what he sees as the ongoing campaign in the British media against a death sentence handed down by a Saudi Arabian court against a British nurse convicted of murdering her colleague. The subject has been reported in the press and on radio for some time now, and the British government is clearly concerned and has discussed the verdict and sentence during its cabinet sessions, Qtami said. The British media has been attacking Saudi Arabia for passing the verdict which convicted the British nurse, not of killing a Saudi citizen but an Australian nurse, said the writer who added that the campaign was actually being waged because the British do not accept a Third World country to pass judgement on the "former masters of the world." Qtami said Britain knew all along that capital punishment in Saudi Arabia is carried out by beheading, but it never raised any protest against the practice until the sword came close to the neck of a British citizen. It seems, said the writer, that the beheading of criminals from the Third World does not stir any sympathetic feelings in Britain, but it certainly does when a criminal from the ancient empire is convicted and punished by a Third World people considered in London to be of lower class and inferior to the former masters of the world.

View from Academia

**Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh**

# Something should be done to bring peace to Algeria

THE LOSS of human life in Algeria, whatever the reasons and whoever is behind the killings, is painful indeed, especially to us in this part of the world who view Algeria as a "fraternal Arab country." Hardly a day goes by without us hearing about yet a new, dreadful massacre, the victims of which are innocent citizens — children, women, and men. The situation is certainly tragic, and the continuation of the shedding of innocent blood is not in any way acceptable.

But the situation is more than painful and tragic to us; it is also both puzzling and outrageous. In the last two decades of this millennium, we have witnessed all types of disasters, atrocities, acts of terror and horror, and chilling tragedies in many parts of the globe: Somalia, the Arabian Gulf, Bosnia, Rwanda, etc. But the situation in Algeria remains almost totally unparalleled and unique.

We understand (though by means approve) the shedding of blood when two neighbouring countries go into war for all kinds of reasons; Algeria is going to war against itself. We understand (though by means approve) the shedding of blood when a civil war breaks out (Somalia, Rwanda, etc.); but there is no civil war (as such) in Algeria. We understand the shedding of blood when conflicts are race-based or religion-based (Bosnia, etc.); but the conflict in Algeria is neither racial nor religious.

Furthermore, we do not understand why the conflict is taking so long, why violence is aimed almost exclusively at ordinary people (children and women sitting unsuspectingly in the comfort of their homes or yards, students and teachers going to schools, pedestrians and passengers going to work, journalists, etc.) And we do not understand why the victims are killed in such a primitive, merciless manner.

More than all of this, we do not understand the silence and reticence of the Arab brethren. One expects the international community, represented by the United Nations, to take some interest in Algeria — an initiative of some sort, a fact-finding mission, the delegation of a mediator, etc. But one cannot expect much from the U.N., as some have argued, because the situation in Algeria is an internal matter and Algeria is an independent state. But one does expect much from the Arab World.

What is the Arab League for? Obviously, for many things. One of its major aims is the welfare (both collective and individual) of Arab countries. The Arab League is expected to do something not only when two Arab states are in conflict but when an individual Arab state suffers from a serious, prolonged tragedy. We understand, of course, the Arab League's inclination to respect the independence of its member states. But there is a big difference between a passing internal matter, such as those happening once in a while in Arab countries, and a serious, drawn out conflict such the present one in Algeria. The situation in Algeria is serious enough, "chronic" enough to merit or justify some earnest diplomatic initiative on part of the Arab League.

But if the Arab League is not inclined (either due to the impotence from which it has been suffering for some time or any other reason) to interfere or intervene, then the Arab leaders themselves are called upon to think of an initiative which ought to be coordinated and worked out with the Algerian government and whatever element in the opposition willing to cooperate. We certainly owe the Algerian brethren at least an attempt to get some sort of dialogue happening or a process started.

There are, of course, many troubling matters in the Arab World and many issues of concern at the collective as well as individual levels. Algeria, however, is one of the most serious and urgent. We hope to see some serious Arab action or initiative in the days ahead. Algeria has suffered long and paid a heavy price. Something should be done to bring security and peace to it.

# Resuscitating the arms trade to help U.S. coffers

**By Gwynne Dyer**

THEY USED to be called "merchants of death," but that is a bit harsh given that 95 per cent of the weapons they sell go to the scrapyard without ever being used in anger. Try "merchants of poverty, tyranny and (occasionally) death." Because the arms-makers of the world are in trouble, and their only hope is to open up new markets in the developing world.

Two weeks ago, Enrique de la Torre, director of international security in the Argentine foreign ministry, urged the U.S. government not to lift its 20-year-old ban on the sale of high-tech weaponry to Latin America. Buenos Aires has cut its own defence spending deeply, he said, and it does not want to be forced into an arms race with Brazil and Chile.

Besides, de la Torre said, neither neighbour's armed forces are under full civilian control yet. Letting them have advanced weapons "could have major consequences for the region."

So what did U.S. President Bill Clinton do on Aug. 1? He lifted the ban, thus delighting the Pentagon, American arms manufacturers — and Latin American military officers. "Thanks for the good news," said one Argentine senior officer. "It means we can enter the circuit once again." It also means some major capital transfers from poor Latin American countries to the United States.

The international arms trade was always a cut-throat business, but since the end of the cold war it has become positively vicious. The total size of the market is shrinking, especially in the rich countries that used to be the biggest market for advanced weaponry: NATO's military spending has fallen about five per cent a year since 1992, and Russia's has dropped even more steeply.

*The crisis in the arms trade is even more* acute because the only other customers with free-spending ways, the oil-producing states of the Middle East, have pretty well completed the major rearmament purchases they began after the 1991 Gulf war. So if you want new customers, you must seek them among the relatively poor.

Even in the developing countries, military spending is down: arms sales to the Third World fell in 1995 for the fifth year in a row, to only $15.4 billion. But the Third World is just about the only game in town — and that is where the United States has been losing market share.

Overall, the U.S. is still by far the world's biggest arms dealer. Its 1995 share of global sales was 43 per cent, down from 56 per cent in 1994 but still more than Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany combined. However, in 1995, after an almost total collapse of arms exports when the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Russia finally got back in the game in a big way.

***The international arms trade was always a cut-throat business, but since the end of the cold war it has become positively vicious.***

*The Russian arms industry, a vital source* of jobs and foreign exchange for the limping Russian economy, restructured, cut its prices — and in 1995 it roared back into the global market, quadrupling its market share to 17 per cent. More importantly, in terms of its psychological impact, Russia actually overtook the United States in arms sales to the developing countries: Russia $6 billion, U.S. $3.8 billion.

Now, the truth is that the Russians achieved this success mostly by selling weapons to countries that were its traditional customers (like India, which bought 40 Sukhoi-30 fighters for between $1.5 and $2 billion), or to countries the U.S. refuses to sell arms to, like China and Iran. But American arms manufacturers were still shocked — and then there arose this curious combination of insult and opportunity in Latin America.

*President Jimmy Carter originally* banned sales of advanced U.S. weaponry to Latin America in the 1970s, when most countries in the region were suffering under brutal military regimes. That is no longer true, but the ban has survived the restoration of democracy in almost all those countries because it made such good sense.

No Latin American country really plots to conquer its neighbours, so they do not actually need the high-tech toys. Military professionals always use the neighbours' military hardware as an excuse to demand more for themselves, but if nobody in the region is buying advanced weaponry, then their argument evaporates.

No law prevented Latin Americans from shopping elsewhere for arms, but the disciples of the cold war froze the Russians out, and London's close relationship with Washington kept Britain out. The French and Israelis made a few sales, but over two decades the Carter ban probably saved Latin *America tens of billions of dollars. And* then came the Peru-Ecuador border war of 1995.

It was the smallest and silliest of wars: 80 soldiers killed along a stretch of unmarked jungle frontier where the local tribes neither knew nor cared which country they were in. But in the aftermath, both Peru and Ecuador went shopping for arms — and when Ecuador bought some Israeli-made Kfir fighters, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori went to the Russians.

More precisely, he went to the Belarussians who had some ex-Soviet MiG-29 fighters sitting around that they were willing to sell at a knock-down price. The Russians were so cross at being cut out of the deal by Belarus that they refused to provide Peru with spares and service, which makes the long-run usefulness of the MiG-29s pretty doubtful. But that was precisely the lever that the U.S. arms industry needed: Russian arms being bought by Latin Americans!

So the lobbyists in Washington did their work, and Clinton buckled under the pressure, and McDonnell Douglas is already offering to sell F-16s to Chile.

"This decision puts U.S. arms transfer policy towards Latin America on a par with our policy towards other regions of the world and will be implemented in a way that serves our policy of promoting stability, restraint and cooperation in the region," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry.

But if everybody in Latin America is going to be stable, restrained and cooperative — as they very likely will be — then exactly what are all those arms actually for? Why, to transfer wealth from Latin America to the United States, of course."

# Sedating the guilt of Deir Yassin

**By Ray Hanania**

NO BUILDING or monument can truly capture the significance that the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin has had on the people of Palestine and their fate.

On the early morning of April 9, 1948, members of two Jewish terrorist organisations, the Irgun Zvie Leuhmi, led by Polish revisionist fanatic Menachem Begin, and the Stern Gang, attacked the village of 750 residents, *slaughtering 254 of its civilian inhabi*tants. Only 10 of the attackers died, victims of outdated musket fire from disorganised village residents.

To emphasise their murderous deed, the Irgun paraded 25 male prisoners in an open truck that drove through the streets of Jerusalem, a further warning to Palestinians in other outlying villages to flee their homes or find themselves victims, too. These "trophies" of Zionist madness were then taken to a quarry where they were executed by their Irgun captors. The remaining residents of Deir Yassin were thrown into the street and evicted from their homes.

Although the barbarism of the massacre that took place has become legendary, the real horror of that morning was felt across the country in the coming weeks, as the British Mandate ended, and Jewish forces spread the word of the vicious killing of men, women and children.

The original purpose of the assault was to establish the Irgun as a serious military force, equal in stature to the Haganah. Both saw Deir Yassin as strategically important to their cause, hoping to evict the residents and use the abandoned village as an airfield that would be used to supply Jewish fighters in Jerusalem.

Today, only weeds and wild olive trees mark the village that was destroyed by the new state of Israel. And, in the towering shadow of Israel's great inhumanity, the Jewish state erected an ironic memorial to the six million Jews slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II and called it Yad Vashem. On its walls are engraved the names of every Jew murdered by the Nazis.

***Of all the places where Yad Vashem could be built, Israel chose the land near the remains of the former Palestinian village of Deir Yassin.***

While the Yad Vashem recounts in memorabilia, photos and words the horrors of the Holocaust, not a whisper is heard in the stillness of the nearby land where 254 men, women and children were systematically butchered by wild and rampaging fanatic followers of Menachem Begin.

Of all the places where Yad Vashem could be built, Israel chose the land near the remains of the former Palestinian village of Deir Yassin.

Possibly, the architects of this great monument that is intended to remind the world of the great atrocities of the Nazis against the Jewish people, also meant it to serve as a sedative to erase from the memories of the world the silent cries of the 254 Palestinian dead of Deir Yassin.

How often, I wondered, had Menachem Begin walked to the grounds of Yad Vashem, looking just to the north, to contemplate the history of the Jews? As Israel's prime minister, did Begin ever once express remorse for the massacre that occurred in the fields below his gaze?

Obviously, the crime of taking an innocent life can be measured in relative standards by the Israelis. Six million murdered Jews far outweighs the worth, to them, of 254 murdered Palestinians.

Maybe that distinction helped Begin live with his great crime, sedating any feelings of regret that might have crossed his guilty brow as he stared across the barren field of what had once been a bustling but humble Palestinian town.

For many Palestinians, the murder of the 254 residents of Deir Yassin symbolised the beginnings of a Palestinian Holocaust, of sorts. How many Palestinian villages have been destroyed by the government of Israel, their purpose to forcibly remove Palestinians from Israeli territories, or to re-use the Palestinian villages for new, exclusively Jewish settlements? Some estimates put the number of Palestinian villages destroyed and eradicated at more than 400.

The attack against Deir Yassin accentuated the fears of the Palestinians, as it coincided with news of the death of Palestinian Freedom Fighter Abdul Qader Al Husseini, who had returned only months before from exile to lead a Palestinian uprising against the Irgun and the Haganah.

There is no marker for Deir Yassin.

There is no stone for Abdel Qader Al Husseini.

The prairie of Deir Yassin is located near Jerusalem, between the Jewish settlements of Givat Shaul, founded in 1902, and Har Nof on the western slopes of the nearby mountains. Givat Shaul was expanded, with Jerusalem, to include the former Palestinian village. Givat Shaul Bet marks the center of what little remains of Deir Yassin.

It is not easy to find the spot. Who remembers the names of the 254 innocent Palestinian civilians who died in that village on a cool morning nearly 50 years ago? Fifty years.

How long does it take for history and time to erase the painful memory of this great Arab tragedy?

*Ray Hanania is a Palestinian American writer. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times*

## LETTERS

### *One Israeli apology*

**To the Editor:**

GOVERNMENTS ARE responsible for the behaviour of their citizens, but individuals cannot always be held responsible for the misdeeds of their government. Nevertheless, as an Israeli, I wish to convey to you my feelings of shock and outrage at, and my sincerest apologies for, the unwarranted offence to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which according to reports in the media had been committed on my behalf as a citizen of Israel. Although I can only speak for myself, I am sure that this sentiment is shared by many of my compatriots.

**Prof. Ephraim Kleiman**
**Department of Economics**
**The Hebrew University**

### *Thanking one American*

**To the Editor:**

I WOULD like to thank Mr. Hendrik S. Weiler for the letter "What's in it for us," (Jordan Times, Wednesday, Oct. 1, 1997). It is heartening to hear one more honest American speak the "truth" about what exactly is the situation in the Middle East. The three significant interests of America in the Middle East, which Mr. Hendrik mentioned, are indeed: 1. cheap and secure oil 2. Israel 3. U.S. political and military domination, a fact that has without doubt realised by every Arab in this part of the world. Even our legal right to fight occupation has been twisted and given the name "terrorism" by Israel and the U.S. although the biggest act of terror in the 20th century took place in 1948, when the entire Palestinian nation was uprooted and handed over to complete strangers. Terrorism is what is practised daily on the Palestinians in their own homeland — demolitions of homes, medieval torture of prisoners, shooting and killing with live ammunition, the confiscating of land, etc. But where is the voice of the American people in all of this? Israel and the Jewish lobby in the U.S. are manipulating the Americans, the good and honest people who pay their taxes and care about their country. Don't these Americans have a say towards the unjust and hateful policies perpetrated on the Palestinians, the Iraqis and other peoples of this part of the world?

**Sumaya E. Shaker**
**Amman**

## Society on the Move

# Awards can lead to many achievements

WHEN AKEL Biltaji, minister of tourism and antiquities, was a senior official at Royal Jordanian, he became accustomed to awards, prizes and honours presented to the airline in various categories. Later this month, however, he is to accept an unusual award on behalf of Jordan. The timing maybe opportune or inopportune, depending on one's attitude. Nevertheless, Reed Exhibition Companies, one of the world's largest trade show companies, together with American Express, have announced the inaugural presentation of the "World Peace Through Tourism," award at the debut of the American Travel Market in Orlando, Florida, on United Nations Day on Oct. 24. The first recipient of the award will be MEMTTA. (The Middle East Mediterranean Travel & Tourism Association) and the tourism ministers of each of its member countries — Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian National Authority, Tunisia, and Turkey. According to the organisers, a U.S. State Department official, representing Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, will present the awards in a special ceremony. MEMTTA is a public/private partnership established in 1995 to promote travel and tourism in the Middle East, North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf region. Tourism industry and government leaders from Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, the Palestinian National Authority, Tunisia, and Turkey were the founding members. Malta joined this year. The association was developed under the auspices of the multilateral peace process and is the culmination of an initiative taken at the Casablanca Economic Summit in October 1994. Its headquarters are in Tunis, and it has extra-regional divisions in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific. The "World Peace Through Tourism" award is said to be inspired by the spirit of regional cooperation and support of the peace process exhibited by the MEMTTA tourism ministries and the private sector. The award recognises the vital role that the tourism industry plays in building global peace.



Akel Biltaji

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**ACTING IN STEAD:** With last month's resignation of Salim Turk as governor of Aqaba, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid has appointed Deputy Governor Aktham Majali as acting governor. Mr. Majali has been deputy for just under a year. The appointment of a succesor to Retired Jordan Armed Forces General Turk, who is now heading the Jordanian Economic and Social Organisation of Retired Servicemen, would probably be delayed until after the parliamentary elections on Nov. 4.

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**FETING THE FELLOWS:** For those who don't already know it, U. S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan wears another hat here in the Kingdom — that of the American co-chairperson of the Binational Fulbright Commission established in Amman in 1994. As such, he and his wife Virginia will host the annual reception next Thursday honouring Fulbright alumni and the 1997-98 Fulbright Fellows in Jordan. If you think the invitation list of about nearly 600 people is large, you may be interested to learn that since 1975, when the Fulbright programme was first activated with Jordan, the programme has awarded various grants to Americans (whose field of scholarship centres on Jordan) and Jordanians (studying in all fields) alike, to approximately 400 people. The awards programmes are three; the primary one being the Fulbright Fellowships, and the two others, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship and the Eisenhower Exchange Fellowships. Among the Jordanian recipients of these awards are: Fulbright Fellows Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, secretary general of the Jordan Valley Authority; Dr. Mohammad Awad, the new president of Philadelphia University, Dr. Eid Dahiyat, president of Muta University, Khaled Omari, former minister of education, and Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh, assistant professor of English at the University of Jordan, a host of the programme Challenges on Jordan Television, and a columnist; Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow Nancy Bakir, acting co-secretary general of the Higher Council for Science and Technology; and Eisenhower Exchange Fellows Elia Nuqul, general manager of Fine Hygienic Paper Company, and Ali Nsour, chairperson of Jordan Potash Company. Minister of Education and Higher Education Dr. Munther Masri is honorary co-chairperson of the commission, and Alain McNamara has been the binational institution's executive director since its inception.

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Ali Sarwar and Meher Naqvi

**BACK TO THE REPUBLIC:** There is a promotion in store for Pakistan's ambassador to Jordan. Come early December Ali Sarwar Naqvi, his wife Meher and youngest son Raza will end their tenure in Amman and head back to Islamabad where Mr. Naqvi will take up a new senior assignment as additional foreign secretary. The ambassador was behind the presentation of the first single-country Pakistani trade exhibition in Jordan in 1995, visits here by several trade delegations, and the establishment of a Pakistan Export Display Centre at the embassy. Active in promoting Jordanian-Pakistani relations, the Naqvis, over their nearly three-year stay here, organised several cultural presentations, painting exhibitions and colloquiums. Mr. Naqvi also undertook a complete renovation of the embassy and is perhaps most proud of the construction of the Quaid e-Azam Hall which he believes should serve as a forum for Jordanian as well as Pakistani displays of artistic talent. The friends and associates they have made in Jordan will be missed, but Mr. Naqvi hopes to strengthen these relations from his new policy-making position at his foreign ministry. The Naqvis eldest son Husain graduated from Georgetown University during their stay in Amman. He now is a junior economist for a World Bank affiliate in Washington, D.C. Their second son Asad is a sophomore at Georgetown, and Raza is at the Amman Baccalaureate School.

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**READER-FRIENDLY:** Marcel Pott, the former Middle East bureau chief for ARD German Radio, is back in Amman, not to cover the Israeli Mossad ignominy, like dozens of his colleagues, but on a more personal mission. After nearly five years in Bonn where he has been covering German foreign policy issues for television, Pott is here to write a book for a broad public audience who read, watch and hear news of events in the Middle East but who have trouble understanding the complexities behind these events and their history. Having spent 10 years (1982-1992) in the region, first in Beirut and then in Amman, he intends to catch the attention of his target readership by presenting an account of the development of political Islam, why its extreme form is on the rise, and why secular ideologies have failed and been discredited in the eyes of the Arab masses. He will also talk about the structure of contemporary Arab societies and the interaction of the orient and occident. Pott says the book will not be written with the usual semi-scientific approach, but rather will make for informative, clarifying and hopefully enjoyable reading. He will include accounts of his own personal experiences with what he admires in Arab societies, and will not ignore their problems, particularly with regard to efficiency, or the lack there of. Pott, who is here with his wife Simone, says he should complete the manuscript by April. The book will be published in German by Luebber, a large publishing house based in a small town with a complicated name close to Cologne.

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**KULBIAC & PIZZA:** Catering to the country's tourism industry, both foreign and local, are two new business ventures which opened last week: a hotel with a Russian flare and an establishment of the past and present. And busy lending his support to both was Mr. Biltaji. The minister attended the opening of the new Garden Palace Hotel on Wasfi Tel Street in Amman. The proprietor is Dr. Hilal Keilani, who has put some Russian flair into the hotel in the shape of its Alexander Pushkin Restaurant, named after the 19th century poet, novelist and dramatist. The restaurant will offer Russian and continental cuisine. The property has 30 guest rooms, four meeting facilities a pool and patio.

Mr. Biltaji was also on hand at Monday night's opening ceremony of Haret Jadoudnah in Madaba. This partnership venture, billed as "A rewarding example of adaptive reuse," is the work of premier restauranteur Zeid Goussous and young entrepreneur Ibrahim Jumean. The property includes a restaurant that was the turn of the century home of the late Ibrahim Jumean (grandfather of the aforementioned Mr. Jumean) and where King Abdullah slept on his few overnight visits to Madaba. The eatery will serve traditional Arabic and continental food and pizzas. Behind the house, the partners created an arts and crafts court housing branch or new establishments of several already well-known craftspeople and a few new names. These include Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Bani Hamida, Amar Khammash's furniture, Fitnah Qalaji's home furnishings, Khalil Burqan's bedding accessories, Rana Adwan's lighting fixtures, a wood and hemp furniture shop, a silversmith, and a hand-made glass shop. On the calendar is an exhibition of paintings of old Madaba houses by Salaam Kanaan at the complex's underground Roots Gallery. Attending the opening also were Minister Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, RJ Captain Nasri Jumean and several prominent members of the Madaba community. Friends of the proprietors are lobbying to have an amateur chef night on a regular basis. So if you think you can cook for more than 130 people, you might want to join the pressure group.

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**'RETURNS ARE STRONGER':** Good news again for the travel industry. Lufthansa is adding its name to list of international airline companies to resume flights to Jordan since their suspension during the 1991 Gulf War. Starting April 1, 1998, the German flag carrier will operate three weekly non-stop flights from Amman to Frankfurt. Departure is said to be scheduled at 7:35 a.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Lufthansa continued to maintain an office in Amman to arrange flights through Damascus. Other airlines that resumed flights to Jordan in recent years include British Airway, Air France, KLM, and of course, Kuwait Airways.

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**PERSONALS:** By this next item the J.T. intends no precedent-setting, at least for the time being. Although we are not in the business of placing personal advertisements (perhaps an idea worth considering) we thought it could do no harm to publish the following request received in the mail recently. Bernard Armiger and Timothy Keith Renwick of Orlando, Florida in the U.S. are looking for a few good people in Jordan to start up a friendship. They wrote to us saying they were in search of anyone — race, age, sex were "unimportant." "We want trustworthy friends who are sincere and who have a good sense of humour." So if you think you may make a good candidate, write to Messrs Armiger and Renwick at P. O. Box 628040, Main B 1-105 U, Orlando, Florida 32862-8040.

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**ICS UPDATE:** There is a new library and information technology extension at the International Community School, which although is not yet fully equipped will be open to visitors to the ICS Food Fair. Incidentally the fair, inadvertently reported as scheduled for Oct. 3, will actually be held this Friday, Oct. 10. The ICS welcomes all to visit the new library.

**Jennifer Hamarneh**

# Perfect memory

**By Jean-Claude Elias**




WHAT DO personal computers have that makes us love them so much?

There is of course a long list of technical reasons why we use them and need them so badly. They certainly increase our productivity. They also allow us to perform certain tasks that would otherwise be unthinkable, particularly when it comes to handling large amounts of data. Complex scientific calculations are now exclusively done using PCs. Not only have slide rules been made obsolete by PCs, but even electronic calculators just can't compete with real computers when one is working at advanced mathematics.

Still, the above does not explain just how attached people are to their beloved machines. There is something sentimental, almost human in the way users think of their personal computer. If it is out of order or needs repair, they call the technical team with more anxiety, more urge than they would call a doctor for a sick child. They spend unreasonable money on gadgets and accessories, just to pamper the PC.

Perhaps the one element in a personal computer that makes us really love it is its capacity to preserve information, no matter how complex or large it can be — in short, its memory.

A PC's hard disk storage is the extension of our own biological memory, with the essential difference that we can depend on the former much more than on the latter.

There was an argument a few years ago about the size of hard disk drives. People used to say that the size of the human brain was still much more important than a computer's disk.

This is hardly true, now that the average hard disk's capacity has been multiplied by 10 in less than 4 years. And the best is yet to come.

Specialists are expecting 20GB (20 gigabytes, or 20 billion characters) disks to be commonly available before the year 2000.

Memory size, however, is not the main quality of a computer. Its infinite capability to retrieve, compare and cross-reference information from that memory.

Where our own memory often fails, the computer's always succeeds. It is therefore not surprising to see manufacturers flood the market with several types of external, removable hard disk models.

Whereas the primary hard disk is usually fixed, installed inside a PC's cabinet, removable hard disks can be taken out of their drive, carried in your pocket and stored in any place you want.

They also allow you to make copies of the data you have on the fixed disk and therefore serve as security copies.

We started by keeping information on hard disks in the form of characters. The power of modern computers now lets us store music and photographs too.

Family albums are going on hard disks. American manufacturer Iomega has made the big time with its 100MB (100 million characters) and 1GB (1 billion characters) removable hard disks respectively named ZIP100 and Jaz. Both fit in the palm of your hand or your shirt pocket.

Millions of these affordable units have been sold worldwide. The level of comfort and security these disks provide is unprecedented. Lapses of memory may become a thing of the past. What else do we need to be in love with the machine?

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# U.S. official commends Jordan's achievements and urges faster privatisation, additional reforms

By Ghalia Alul
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The United States has reiterated its commitment towards reinforcing its strong and expanding ties with Jordan and encouraging the Kingdom in its economic reform efforts.

"The international community has been impressed by the progress Jordan has made in the past few years. Economic growth has been solid, inflation has decreased, foreign exchange reserves have grown dramatically, and debt declined significantly," Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Stuart Eizenstat said at a business dinner on Tuesday.

This progress, he added, helped strengthen U.S.-Jordanian economic ties as well as promoted greater interest by U.S. businesses in the Kingdom.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Mr. Eizenstat announced that final details have been worked out to designate the Irbid industrial area a qualified industrial zone, and thus offer Jordanian firms an opportunity to export to the United States free from customs duties.

In highlighting U.S economic assistance to the Kingdom, Mr. Eizenstat said the increased U.S. financial assistance to Jordan (more than $120 million in direct economic aid in 1997 and an additional $30 million in military assistance) "will make Jordan among the top five recipients of U.S. foreign assistance worldwide," (after Israel, Egypt, Russia, and Ukraine).

During the conference, Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani said Jordan is expected to receive $250 million in U.S. assistance in 1998.

Dr. Anani stressed the need for increased U.S. aid to Jordan, adding "but, we look for more understanding of Jordan's economic situation."

During a luncheon organised by the Jordan Trade Association on Tuesday, Mr. Eizenstat said Jordan must exert more effort to eliminate obstacles to trade such as "burdensome and unnecessary regulations on businesses, bureaucracy and cumbersome procedures or restrictive policies."

The U.S. official stressed the need for the Kingdom to enforce intellectual property rights (IPR) laws, which he said, will attract high-quality businesses and long-term investment.

Inadequate IPR laws would create investment disincentives for pharmaceutical, audio-visual, and other key industrial sectors, Mr. Eizenstat warned.

He told reporters that the U.S. agreed to help

(Continued on page 9)



Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani (right) listens to the U.S. official addressing a press conference (Petra photo)

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1997

**ARIES:**
(March 21 to April 19) You got a lot done yesterday, but the pace was frantic. Well, here's good news. Things are setting down. Besides, people are now in the mood to party. Might as well go with the flow. Host a celebration, for having made it through a really tough week, unscathed!

**TAURUS:**
(April 20 to May 20) Your boss is in a pretty good mood. He or she might even feel compelled to give you a raise. You certainly deserve one. Point out how much you've been doing lately. You might want to make up a list ahead of time. Include a balance sheet of the money you've brought in.

**GEMINI:**
(May 21 to June 21) You are incredibly lucky today. It's like you've been dealt three aces and a couple of jokers. You even get extra points for being so cute. Whatever you've been dreaming about, begin it. This is the day with magic in it.

**MOON CHILDREN:**
(June 22 to July 21) The problem is that the item you want is too expensive. You could take out a loan or put it on your credit card, but that makes it cost even more. Instead of worrying about it, ask an older person to help. An influential friend can get it for you wholesale.

**LEO:**
(July 22 to August 21) You get things the way you like them and you don't want to change. But that's exactly what your opposite sign, Aquarius, always seems to want you to do. Don't worry, a little variety is good for you both. It might even be fun. Lighten up and try something you don't want to do.

**VIRGO:**
(August 22 to September 22) You're very good at figuring out what other people need. Today, that job could be a little more difficult. It won't be enough to do what you already know perfectly. You'll also have to be able to think fast on your feet. Believe in yourself and you can do it!

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) The sun is in Libra and the moon is in Aquarius. That's two out of three of the air signs. So all you have to do is hang out with your Gemini friends. Together, you're amazingly lucky. If you know an Aquarian who wants to play too, you'll be invincible.

**SCORPIO:**
(October 23 to November 21) It looks like your roommates or family would like to make some changes. You prefer things the way they are. Listen to their ideas and give them a chance. As for a trial run, with a reevaluation next month. That may be the best you can get. You're outvoted.

**SAGITTARIUS:**
(November 22 to December 21) People are in a talkative, friendly, inquisitive mood. You'll learn a lot just by listening. You won't be able to keep your mouth, either — nor should you. You have a great deal to contribute. Coach them and they'll come up with better answers.

**CAPRICORN:**
(December 22 to January 20) It's a good day to ask for a raise. You might get one even if you forget to ask. You've certainly earned one. You probably work two or three times as hard as your nearest competitor. It's OK or toot your own horn a little. Let your superiors know what you've accomplished.

**AQUARIUS:**
(January 21 to February 19) You have just about everything you need to get where you want to do. The only thing you might be lacking is a companion. That can be easily handled. Get together with the wild and crazy one. You'll have an adventure beyond your wildest expectations.

**PISCES:**
(February 20 to March 20) If you really want to understand what's happening, pretend you're a mouse in the corner. Keep your mouth shut and your ears open. Keep tuned in to the grapevine, too. There's lots of manoeuvring behind the scenes. If you know ahead, you can make wise choices.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:**
(March 21 to April 19) First, make a big fuss over your sweetheart. Bring a gift, such as tickets to a great new show this weekend. Then focus your full attention on your career. Make sure your boss and all the clients are deliriously happy. Schedule time for yourself on Sunday.

**TAURUS:**
(April 20 to May 20) You find the Capricorn influence simultaneously comforting and stimulating. It affects the areas of travel and higher education. Today, Neptune in Capricorn is going direct. So if the local college is raffling off a trip to Milan, get a couple of tickets.

**GEMINI:**
(May 21 to June 21) One of your friends could come up with an absolutely marvellous idea first thing this morning. You can't call in sick because you feel wonderful. Don't worry. Your magnificent romantic interlude will go much better tomorrow and over the weekend.

**MOON CHILDREN:**
(June 22 to July 21) You may feel like you're in the middle of a hurricane. Hopefully that's not literally the case. Tempers are short, and so is the time left to get the job done. In conditions like this, people have to realign themselves towards a common goal. Help them remember what it is.

**LEO:**
(July 22 to August 21) There will be breakdown, breakthroughs and maybe even some general breakage. Most of it will not affect you directly. You're standing off to the side a little. The people who are having the most trouble are the Libras, Capricorns, Arians and Cancers. Lend a hand.

**VIRGO:**
(August 22 to September 22) Some people think Virgos are too shy to be passionate. That's not true. You're just very particular. If the other person isn't hard working, frugal and clean, forget it. Today, you may be attracted to a person who's also gruff, cantankerous and opinionated.

**LIBRA:**
(September 23 to October 22) Face a situation you've been avoiding at home. Your hopes and dreams are in the process of materialising. This is partially through your own hard work and partially through the support of a strong friend. The closer you get to completion, the more appreciative you'll be.

**SCORPIO:**
(October 23 to November 21) Is there something you're doing that you don't like, such as smoking or overeating? All you have to do is habituate yourself to a new routine. Sounds too simple? Well, maybe it isn't. Abandon the drama and simply live your life a different way, starting now.

**SAGITTARIUS:**
(November 22 to December 21) There will be several hassles this morning. One friend keeps starting fights with other friends of yours. Don't make matters worse by choosing sides. Instead, help all parties see how much they have in common. Just do the best you can and don't worry.

**CAPRICORN:**
(December 22 to January 20) You definitely are a character, there's no doubt about that. Your biggest challenge is to keep a lid on your opinions. You let people know exactly what you think. Sometimes it works very well. Other times, it doesn't. Practice your act and diplomacy today.

**AQUARIUS:**
(January 21 to February 19) Several issues need your attention. Basically, they involve the barriers keeping you from doing what you want. Just keep checking things off your list. Once you've got them all done, your results will magically appear.

**PISCES:**
(February 20 to March 20) You may find it difficult to say what's on your mind, but you admire people who can. So you're the perfect coach. You have exquisite manners. If you give your friend a little help, he or she will be much more effective. That will make everybody happier.

**THE ARAB POTASH COMPANY LIMITED**

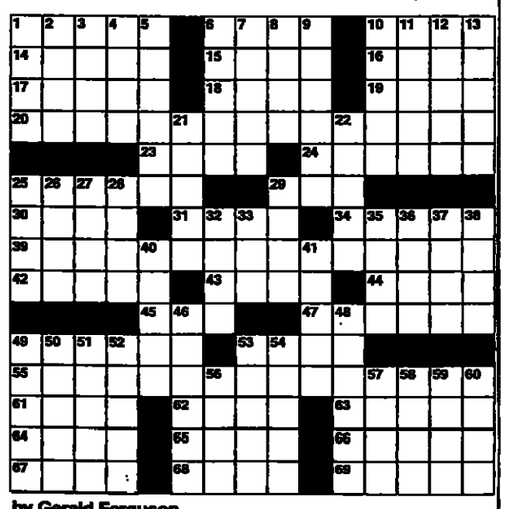
**ANNOUNCEMENT**
**TENDER NO. T-43/97**

Construction and erection of the new hot brine thickener tank, rake, roof and mechanism.

Only contractors classified as first class in civil works (concrete and steel structure) and first class contractors in mechanical works are invited to submit offers to tender; detailed terms and conditions can be obtained from the Arab Potash Company head office in Shmeisani, the documents price is JD(250). Deadline for buying the documents is Monday, 3/11/1997; and the closing date for submitting the offers is (12:00 noon) Monday, 17/11/1997.

**The Arab Potash Co. Ltd.**
**Eng. Naser El-Sadoun**
**General Manager**

## THE Daily Crossword



by Gerald Ferguson

ACROSS
1 Blue cartoon character
6 Doll's word
10 Pearl Mosque site
14 Also-ran
15 Panache
16 Little brother?
17 It might be "golden"
18 Compendium
19 Roof overhang
20 Charlton Heston film
23 Frigid or torrid
24 First-born
25 I.O.U.
29 Doctor's org.
30 Rose's guy
31 Witnessed
34 Ringlet
39 Face the facts
42 Games expert
43 Nefarious
44 Kind of market
45 Not in school: abbr.
47 Nautical term
49 Small cafe
53 Skin eruption
55 Soap opera
61 Limerick man
62 Tropical tuber
63 Fish
64 New York county
65 Spring bloomer
66 Old dance
67 Lacoste of tennis
68 Abstract being
69 English region

DOWN
1 Unappetizing food
2 — Flanders
3 Meat stamp letters
4 Bridle part
5 "Don't move!"
6 Gourd fruit
7 "Get —!"
8 Schooner part
9 National song
10 Draw — on (aim at)
11 Fruit of the vine
12 Carries on
13 Bikini blast
21 Sculptor's subject
22 Gladden
25 Speed of sound word
26 Peek—
27 Frosted
28 Ship's bottom
29 Opposer
32 They make up the fold
33 Place for a letter: abbr.
35 Float
36 A Gardner
37 Pun or mob end
38 Certain Burmese
40 "The Wreck of the Mary —"
41 Chan portrayer
46 Tuxedo accessory
48 Come to terms
49 Farm machine
50 River at Grenoble
51 Woodworking finish
52 Proverbial crowd
53 Molding edge
54 Shut
56 Dory implements
57 "Topaz" author
58 Howard and Ely
59 Undressed
60 River in Hades

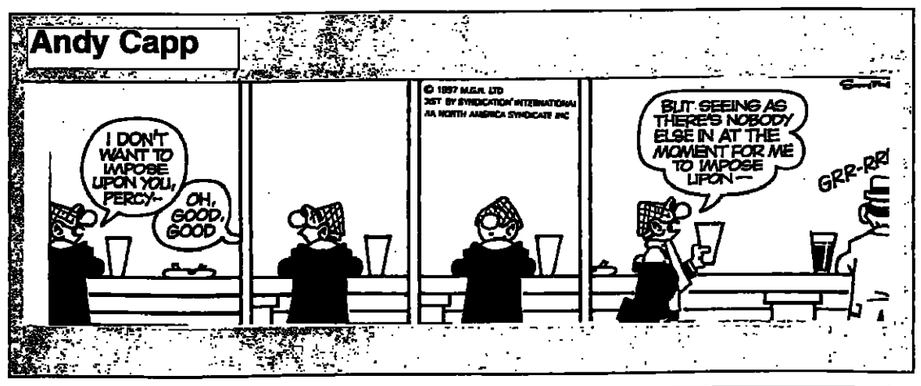
ROSY INCA CLAMP
ABLE NOON AEGIS
YOUNG TURK TSARS
SEE AENEAS TROT
NUNS ORE
FOIST IMPERILS
LAWNS GNU BYNOW
YULE ALL OKRA
SLEDS TEE QUERY
ETTA KETT BUNDY
YIN GEOG
SITS ASSORT ODD
HOBOS OLDBAILEY
ATALL WALE NILE
HARDY STYR COED

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## Peanuts




## Andy Capp




## Mutt'n'Jeff




## THE BETTER HALF®

By Glasbergen




*"I love you more than words can say."* That's what I tell him when I'm not on speaking terms."

## JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DOBOL

ILFOO

LEDENE

NUCHEQ

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

*Print answer here :* ____ THE ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BASIS RAJAH MOTHER DECADE
Answer: Able to buy custom clothing meant this — SHE HAD IT MADE

Many villas and apartments for rent and sale furnished or unfurnished
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel:- 810605-810609
Fax:- 810520
Mobile:- 079/30007

## Daily Beat

*A review of news from the Arabic press*

### *Health insurance fee to be raised to 3% of total salary and allowances*

** CIVIL SERVANTS and retired government personnel will have three per cent deducted from their salaries and allowances as a health insurance fee instead of two per cent. Health Minister Ashraf Kurdi told journalists recently. He did not specify a date to implement the higher charge which, he stressed, will not affect the poor. The minister said he requested the Cabinet to increase the budget of the Ministry of Health to JD150 million from JD106 million to enable the ministry perform its duty at the highest level.

Dr. Kurdi announced that the general health insurance scheme for all citizens will start from next year through the establishment of the "Jordanian Corporation for General Health Insurance" and called for a "comprehensive health revolution" to bring the Jordanian health sector up to the aspired level.

According to Dr. Kurdi, the ministry's "health spending" alone accounted for JD85 million of the budget. He said JD21.5 million were spent on civil servants and families covered by the state health insurance and JD38.5 million on the (financially) capable group. Spending on military personnel and the poor class amounted to JD20.5 million and JD4.5 million. The minister classified the poor as those carrying "assistance cards" from the National Aid Fund.

The health insurance fees paid by civil servants and military personnel provided the ministry with only JD7.5 million and JD100,000 of revenue, the minister indicated. He pointed out that occupational injuries and road accidents cost the treasury around JD14 million and, as such, he said a need to establish a special medical centre to treat people who suffer occupational or road injuries.

Dr. Kurdi said the ministry intends to hire all university graduates in the field of hospital management. He also mentioned that the ministry is inclined to unify all public laboratories in the Kingdom and affiliate them with the ministry. He said: "It is unbelievable to have about quarter of a million food tests conducted annually by the Municipality of Greater Amman, the Institute of Standards and Specifications, the Royal Scientific Society and the Ministry of Health." The minister emphasised that these tests can be done at the ministry.

"The ministry will unify all tenders for supplies of medicines and medical requirements for all health sectors in the country to cut down on waste as much as possible," he concluded (Al Ra'i).

# Eizenstat stresses need to enforce intellectual property rights

(Continued from page 8)

Jordan work to improve protection of intellectual property rights and move toward qualifying the country for membership in the World Trade Organisation.

Mr. Eizenstat also urged Jordan to accelerate its privatisation efforts in order to attract direct foreign investments, encourage competition, and improve services in key sectors.

Recognising the challenges that would face Jordan as a result of economic reforms, Mr. Eizenstat said it would be in Jordan's interest to liberalise and open up the economy, to integrate more fully into the international trading system and to guarantee an investor-friendly businesses environment.

The U.S. official also warned against postponing the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Doha, Qatar next month.

He described the summit as an "economic opportunity for the region and not a political process."

"It will be an opportunity for Jordan and Egypt to show the economic reforms they made...It will also provide access to business leaders around the world," said Mr. Eizenstat.

Expressing Washington's support of Jordan's efforts in pushing the peace process forward, Mr. Eizenstat said the U.S. urged Israel to move forward with plans to establish a joint Aqaba peace airport.

He said that previously the U.S. provided half a million dollars for a detailed feasibility study for the airport, adding that it plans to invest an additional $150,000 to provide technical assistance to Jordan and Israel to manage and operate such a joint airport facility.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr. Eizenstat met with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and discussed U.S.-Jordan relations.

They also discussed the importance of increasing the balance of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority in order to enhance economic growth in the area.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other senior government members meeting with Mr. Eizenstat and U.S. officials Wednesday (Petra photo)

REUTERS REUTERS

## The Business of Information

**Major Currencies & Cross Rates** Prices as at ..... 8/10/97 19:26

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 1.7548 | 0.6183 | 1.4479 | 121.04 | 1.3713 | 1720.00 | 1.9745 | 5.8809 |
| DE Mark | 0.5699 | - | 0.3521 | 0.8253 | 68.99 | 0.7812 | 981.01 | 1.1264 | 3.3551 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6173 | 2.8374 | - | 2.3456 | 197.62 | 2.2178 | 2781.58 | 3.1927 | 9.5106 |
| CH Franc | 0.6907 | 121.16 | 0.4265 | - | 83.60 | 0.9468 | 1188.26 | 136.53 | 4.0663 |
| JP Yen | 0.0083 | 1.4490 | 0.5101 | 1.1951 | - | 1.1322 | 14.18 | 163.08 | 4.8629 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7292 | 1.2816 | 0.4510 | 1.0570 | 1.13 | - | 1256.40 | 1.4433 | 4.3103 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0202 | 0.3594 | 0.0842 | 1421.87 | 0.7977 | - | 11.49 | 3.4265 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5065 | 88.74 | 0.3127 | 73.27 | 61.19 | 0.8942 | 869.21 | - | 2.9819 |
| FR Franc | 0.1700 | 0.2976 | 0.1048 | 24.5552 | 20.52 | 0.2327 | 33.50 | 33.5000 | - |

**Middle Eastern Currencies**

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KWD | AED | GBP | EGP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 0.7080 | 3.7504 | 0.3770 | 3.6402 | 0.3040 | 3.6729 | 1536.00 | 3.3980 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4124 | - | 5.2972 | 0.5325 | 5.1415 | 0.4294 | 5.1877 | 2169.49 | 4.7994 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1888 | - | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0811 | 0.98 | 409.56 | 0.9060 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8780 | 9.9480 | - | 9.66 | 0.8064 | 9.74 | 4074.27 | 9.0133 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1945 | 1.0303 | 1.0303 | - | 0.0835 | 1.01 | 421.95 | 0.9335 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2895 | 2.3289 | 12.3368 | 1.2401 | 11.97 | - | 12.08 | 5052.63 | 0.9335 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1928 | 1.0211 | 0.1026 | 0.9911 | 0.0828 | - | 418.20 | 0.9252 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4609 | 2.4417 | 0.2454 | 2.3699 | 0.1979 | 2.3912 | - | 2.2122 |
| Egyptian | 0.2943 | 0.2084 | 1.1037 | 0.1109 | 1.0713 | 0.0895 | 1.0809 | 452.03 | - |

**Energy**

| Oils | Last | revious |
|---|---|---|
| Brent | 21.19 | 21.02 |
| W. Texa | 22.23 | 21.85 |
| Bonny | 21.19 | 21.02 |
| Dubai | 19.10 | 19.10 |
| UL Gas | 197.00 | 196.00 |

**Mid-East Currencies**

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4690 | 0.1648 | 0.3862 | 32.296 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.478 | 0.1683 | 0.3944 | 32.977 |
| KW Dinar | 3.2895 | 5.7737 | 2.0338 | 4.7642 | 398.41 |
| BH Dinar | 2.6770 | 4.6555 | 1.6399 | 3.8417 | 321.23 |
| CY Pound | 1.922 | 3.3692 | 1.1868 | 2.78 | 232.32 |

*** JOD Cross Rates**

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1465 | 1.1522 |
| DE Mark | 0.4018 | 0.4038 |
| CH Franc | 0.4876 | 0.49 |
| FR Franc | 0.1196 | 0.1202 |
| JP Yen | 0.5788 | 0.5815 |
| NL Guilder | 0.3567 | 0.3585 |
| IT Lira | 0.4097 | 0.4117 |

*Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

**Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)**

| Period / Crncy | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 9 Months | 12 Months |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD | 5.53 | 5.62 | 5.68 | 5.62 | 5.68 |
| GBP | 7.10 | 7.25 | 7.33 | 7.38 | 7.31 |
| JPY | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.42 |
| DEM | 3.06 | 3.28 | 3.37 | 3.50 | 3.68 |
| FRF | 3.22 | 3.31 | 3.42 | 3.57 | 3.71 |
| CHF | 1.33 | 1.45 | 1.55 | 1.67 | 1.75 |
| ITL | 6.73 | 6.53 | 6.25 | 5.91 | 5.64 |

**Main Equity Indices**

| Bourse | Index | Value | Chng | % Chng | High | Low | Prv Cls |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NewYork | DOW JONES | 8091.38 | -86.93 | -1.06 | 8184.7 | 8063.1 | 8178.3 |
| Newyork | S&P 500 | 972.23 | -10.84 | -1.1 | 983.12 | 969.28 | 983.12 |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 5282.1 | -43.5 | -0.82 | 5366.5 | 5235.1 | 5305.6 |
| Tokyo | NIKKIE 225 | 17619.18 | 107.99 | 0.62 | 17718 | 17531 | 17511 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 3024.08 | -40.34 | -1.32 | 3083 | 3008 | 3064.4 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 4347.24 | 39.85 | 0.93 | 4347.3 | 4326.5 | 4307.3 |

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 08/10/1997

| | PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 346.000 | 241.500 | ARAB BANK | 15.4 | 1.19 | 10 | 640 | 214855 | 335.25 | 335.50 | .25+ |
| N | 2.340 | 1.680 | JOR.NATIONAL BK. | E | 0.00 | 2 | 506 | 981 | 1.94 | 1.94 | - |
| | 3.600 | 2.760 | BANK OF JORDAN | 6.3 | 0.00 | 2 | 13500 | 40500 | 2.95 | 3.00 | .05+ |
| | 1.190 | .890 | MID.EAST INV.BK. | 72.9 | 0.00 | 20 | 34200 | 37957 | 1.06 | 1.11 | .05+ |
| T | 2.540 | 2.150 | INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK. | 10.1 | 6.20 | 66 | 63350 | 162572 | 2.49 | 2.55 | .06+ |
| | 5.200 | 4.600 | THE HOUSING BK. | 14.7 | 3.94 | 11 | 31087 | 154781 | 4.98 | 4.93 | .05- |
| | 1.050 | .740 | JOR.GULF BANK | 4.7 | 8.86 | 1 | 500 | 395 | .83 | .79 | .04- |
| | 4.050 | 3.520 | JOR.ISLAMIC BANK | 14.9 | 3.27 | 11 | 1710 | 6284 | 3.70 | 3.67 | .03- |
| | 3.750 | 3.080 | JOR.INV.FIN.BANK | 23.0 | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 716 | 3.55 | 3.58 | .03+ |
| | BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 240.23 | %CHG: +0.03 | | 126 | 145769 | 619277 | | | |
| | 2.170 | 1.590 | JOR FRENCH INSUR. | 5.4 | 7.81 | 17 | 30150 | 57465 | 1.90 | 1.92 | .02+ |
| | INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 114.70 | %CHG: +0.11 | | 17 | 30150 | 57465 | | | |
| | 2.050 | 1.550 | JOR.ELECTRIC PWR. | 9.2 | 5.24 | 18 | 11200 | 21646 | 1.95 | 1.91 | .04- |
| | 4.030 | 1.320 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 22.0 | 3.12 | 4 | 1150 | 4248 | 3.88 | 3.69 | .19- |
| | 6.100 | 4.100 | ARAB INTL.HOTELS | 12.8 | 4.82 | 2 | 60 | 248 | 4.26 | 4.15 | .11- |
| | 1.550 | .930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | g | 0.00 | 2 | 700 | 917 | 1.32 | 1.31 | .01- |
| | 8.160 | 6.700 | ALRA'I | 13.5 | 6.62 | 7 | 1300 | 9805 | 7.26 | 7.55 | .29+ |
| | 1.740 | 1.150 | MID. EAST HOTELS | 21.3 | 0.00 | 10 | 60500 | 84700 | 1.36 | 1.40 | .04+ |
| | 3.720 | 2.890 | ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 5 | 2650 | 9375 | 3.54 | 3.53 | .01- |
| | 1.170 | .930 | ZARKA EDUCATION | g | 0.00 | 8 | 2350 | 2216 | .95 | .94 | .01- |
| | 2.230 | 1.630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.5 | 6.18 | 4 | 1200 | 2136 | 1.78 | 1.78 | - |
| | .950 | .640 | UNION LAND DEV. | g | 0.00 | 18 | 10100 | 7422 | .70 | .74 | .04+ |
| | SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 110.83 | %CHG: -0.47 | | 78 | 91210 | 142712 | | | |
| | 1.050 | .930 | ATTAHQEEB | g | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 1000 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - |
| | 4.450 | 3.220 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 23.8 | 3.11 | 22 | 8350 | 29863 | 3.62 | 3.54 | .08- |
| | 11.100 | 9.070 | JOR. PETROL.REFINERY | 10.6 | 8.10 | 2 | 490 | 5376 | 10.95 | 10.97 | .02+ |
| + | 3.260 | 1.620 | INDUSTRIAL COMM.AGR. | g | 0.00 | 4 | 275 | 444 | 1.63 | 1.61 | .02- |
| | 7.150 | 5.800 | JOR.WORSTED MILLS | 11.2 | 2.88 | 5 | 7700 | 53375 | 6.80 | 6.95 | .15+ |
| | 4.700 | 3.040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 12.7 | 4.35 | 10 | 2623 | 12065 | 4.59 | 4.60 | .01+ |
| | 9.800 | 5.000 | ARAB CHEM. DTRGTS. | 19.9 | 4.62 | 2 | 250 | 1625 | 6.50 | 6.50 | - |
| | 3.850 | 2.220 | ARAB ALUM.IND. | 5.6 | 10.46 | 9 | 8550 | 20421 | 2.38 | 2.39 | .01+ |
| | .710 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 10.8 | 0.00 | 6 | 2800 | 1428 | .51 | .51 | - |
| | 1.230 | .820 | ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD. | 28.4 | 0.00 | 1 | 800 | 744 | .89 | .93 | .04+ |
| | 1.330 | .770 | NATIONAL STEEL IND. | g | 0.00 | 2 | 400 | 312 | .79 | .78 | .01- |
| | .770 | .510 | NATIONAL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 5 | 3250 | 1853 | .57 | .57 | - |
| | 1.200 | .810 | INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM. | g | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 57 | .56 | .57 | .01+ |
| | .920 | .530 | JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 3 | 11000 | 7470 | .67 | .68 | .01+ |
| | .890 | .530 | JOR. SULPHO-CHEM | g | 0.00 | 9 | 5650 | 3955 | .70 | .70 | - |
| | 1.670 | 1.120 | ARAB PHARM.CHEM. | 16.3 | 5.47 | 13 | 3200 | 4117 | 1.30 | 1.28 | .02- |
| | 1.880 | 1.080 | UNIV. MODN.INDS. | P | .21 | 11 | 3750 | 4603 | 1.24 | 1.23 | .01- |
| | 1.460 | .890 | JOR.INDS.RESOURCES | 12.4 | 10.87 | 23 | 11500 | 10454 | .89 | .92 | .03+ |
| | 1.620 | 1.300 | NATL. CHLORINE | 14.7 | 4.49 | 1 | 100 | 156 | 1.56 | 1.56 | - |
| | 1.070 | .810 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 15.9 | 0.00 | 33 | 21650 | 18746 | .85 | .87 | .02+ |
| | 2.090 | 1.340 | EL -ZAY READY WEAR | 51.7 | 0.00 | 1 | 1100 | 1617 | 1.49 | 1.47 | .02- |
| | 1.330 | 1.080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 6.5 | 0.00 | 17 | 13500 | 15908 | 1.17 | 1.18 | .01+ |
| | 1.200 | .860 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 51.4 | 0.00 | 4 | 2976 | 3363 | 1.12 | 1.13 | .01+ |
| | INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 119.01 | %CHG: -0.31 | | 186 | 111039 | 199074 | | | |
| | GRAND TOTAL | | INDEX: 173.73 | %CHG: -0.11 | | 407 | 378168 | 1018527 | | | |

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 08/10/1997

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | .630 | .300 | CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE | g | 0.00 | 9 | 22600 | 7180 | .31 | .32 | .01+ |
| | .620 | .380 | JOR.TRADE FAC. | 10.9 | 0.00 | 61 | 196950 | 83002 | .43 | .41 | .02- |
| | 1.550 | 1.060 | ZARA FOR INVESTMENT | 82.7 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 315 | 1.26 | 1.26 | - |
| T | .770 | .660 | UNION INV. 50% | g | 0.00 | 57 | 262196 | 73186 | .77 | .78 | .01+ |
| | .570 | .360 | ARAB FIN.INVEST. | g | 0.00 | 4 | 4000 | 1580 | .40 | .40 | - |
| N | .950 | .720 | AL-SHARQ INV.CO. | P | 0.00 | 2 | 321 | 272 | .86 | .85 | .01- |
| TN | 1.060 | .850 | UNITED FOR FINAN.INV | 57.8 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 1110 | 1.06 | 1.11 | .05+ |
| | .480 | .200 | JOR.INDS.MATCH-SEMCO | g | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 240 | .24 | .24 | - |
| | .540 | .380 | ARAB INTL.INV.IND. | 46.1 | 0.00 | 7 | 11750 | 4700 | .40 | .40 | - |
| | .650 | .380 | NATL. TEXTILE | g | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 195 | .40 | .39 | .01- |
| | .750 | .400 | NATL.MULT.IND.MANICO | g | 0.00 | 15 | 52850 | 21665 | .41 | .41 | - |
| N | 1.020 | .890 | READY MIX CONCRETE | 11.8 | 0.00 | 3 | 25000 | 24500 | 1.00 | .98 | .02- |
| | .810 | .710 | JORDAN STEEL | 33.9 | 6.67 | 2 | 2500 | 1875 | .76 | .75 | .01- |
| | .670 | .580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 75% | E | 0.00 | 6 | 5200 | 1904 | .62 | .61 | .01- |
| | .730 | .550 | RAZI PHARM. 85% | E | 0.00 | 6 | 3320 | 1693 | .66 | .66 | - |
| | .510 | .290 | INDS. ENG. | g | 0.00 | 5 | 3500 | 1190 | .34 | .34 | - |
| | .820 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | E | 0.00 | 2 | 1100 | 704 | .64 | .64 | - |
| N | 1.000 | .690 | NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75% | 97.4 | 0.00 | 3 | 1300 | 585 | .70 | .70 | - |
| | .840 | .580 | MID.EAST COMPLEX | 7.5 | 16.39 | 20 | 16200 | 9725 | .61 | .61 | - |
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+ : New 12 months low
N : Listed during the past 12 months
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g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

# Qatar Airways plans to go public in 2 years

MANAMA (R) — Qatar Airways plans to convert to a public company in two years by offering its shares to private investors, its chief executive said in remarks published Tuesday.

"We are a private company and we are in no need to issue our results. But we will do so when Qatar Airways is converted to a public company which we hope will take place in two years from now," Akbar Al Bakker told the Arabic-language Al Hayat daily.

Mr. Bakker said the airline — which is 70 per cent owned by the Qatar ruling family with the foreign minister as its chairman — would then offer its shares to the public.

He expected the number of passengers flying with Qatar Airways to more than double to 750,000 in the current financial year which started in April 1997 from 350,000 the previous year.

Mr. Bakker expected the number to reach 950,000 in the 1998/99 financial year.

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# Bulls' Pippen out for two or three months

CHICAGO (AFP) — Scottie Pippen, the National Basketball Association All-Star forward for reigning champions Chicago, will be sidelined for two to three months following surgery on his left foot.

The operation, performed on Monday in New York and revealed here on Tuesday, leaves the Bulls shorthanded with the club's season opener barely three weeks away.

"Everyone always realized the importance of Scottie Pippen," Chicago star Michael Jordan said. "He has always been a major part of our success.

"It gives some other players an opportunity to step forward.

Maybe some of the other players on other teams will take us for granted and underestimate our capabilities."

Surgery was performed by team orthopaedic surgeon Michael Lewis on the second-largest toe of Pippen's left foot.

"We're sorry to lose Scottie," Bulls general manager Jerry Krause said. "This is a blow to us, but hopefully we'll be able to overcome it."

Pippen, a member of the 1992 and 1996 US Olympic gold medal "Dream Teams," has teamed with Jordan to lead the Bulls to five NBA titles in the past seven years.

The 32-year-old Pippen suffered the injury in last season's NBA semi-finals against Miami, but played in pain as the Bulls beat Utah in six games to capture the NBA finals.

But three months of rest has not solved the problem. Pippen skipped his own charity All-Star game late last month and has been unable to practice since training camp began last week.

"The decision had to be made by Scottie and the doctors," Krause said. "We tried very hard to treat it conservatively through the summer. It did not respond to treatment."



**The Chicago Bulls will begin their defence of their NBA title without Scottie Pippen, shown battling for possession with Alan Henderson (R) of the Atlanta Hawks on May 11, 1997, after the All-Star forward underwent surgery on his ailing left foot that will keep him out of action for two to three months (Reuters photo)**

Pippen's absence will make it very difficult for the Bulls to be as overpowering as they have been in the past two seasons, when they rolled to 72 and 69 regular-season game wins and had home-court advantage throughout the entire playoff schedule.

Pippen is considered the NBA's top all-around player, while Jordan is the league's best scorer and Bulls' teammate Dennis Rodman dominates in rebounding. Losing Pippen will diminish Chicago's scoring punch.

Pippen played all 82 games last season and was second on the team with averages of 20.2 points and 6.5 rebounds a game. His 5.7 assists a game were second to Detroit's Grant Hill among all forwards.

The injury also hurts Pippen because he is entering the final year of his contract with the Bulls. He was the subject of off-season trade talks but Jordan threatened to retire if Pippen was transfered and Krause stopped the deal.

Scott Burrell, obtained from Golden State in Chicago's first trade in nearly two years, is expected to replace Pippen in the starting lineup.

## Suleymanoglu rules out World Championships

SOFIA (AFP) — Triple Olympic Naim Suleymanoglu, known as Pocket Herccules, will not comoete in the World Weightlifting Championships in Dec 5-15.

However, Turkey's biggest sporting hero, who was visiting Bulgaria for the first time since defecting in 1986 while at a World Cup meeting in Melbourne, did not rule out competing at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

He said he would retire after winning at last year's Atlanta Olympics and has not done enough training to be competitive at this year's world championships.

Suleymanoglu, an ethnic Turk, is a seven-times world and European champion, three-times World Cup winner and has broken 60 world records.

## Dodgers' Nomo has elbow surgery

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Japan's Hideo Nomo, the Los Angeles Dodgers' right-handed pitcher who struggled through the 1997 season, underwent arthroscopic surgery in his right elbow here Tuesday.

Nomo, the 1995 National League rookie of the year, had loose organic bits removed from the elbow joint in the operation performed by Frank Jobe and Centinela Hospital Medical Center.

Nomo, 29, will not be able to throw for at least two months and will return to Japan to begin rehabilitation. After going 13-6 with a 2.54 earned-run average in 1995 and winning 16 games in 1996,

Nomo has had tougher times against major league batters. He went 14-12 this year with a 4.25 earned-run average in 33 starts.

Nomo became the 20th and most recent Dodger to throw a no-hitter, beating Colorado 9-0 in September of 1996.

## Gascoigne risks police detention

ROME (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne could find himself being detained by Italian police as he prepares to face Italy in England's crucial World Cup qualifier, it was reported on Wednesday.

Gascoigne's legal troubles date back to his spell here at Lazio and an incident in Rome's city centre on January 27, 1994, when the midfielder assaulted paparazzi photographer Lino Nanni.

He was convicted in his absence on March 17 this year and given a suspended jail sentence of three months, plus legal costs of 1.8 million lira ($1.000) and damages to be decided at a later date, according to the Gazzetta dello Sport.

However, Nanni's lawyer Edmondo Zappacosta told the paper that Gascoigne has not been in touch about the affair; and that the Italians now want to use the player's presence here to press their case.

Questioned over what could be his next move, Zappacosta told the Gazzetta: "Asking the judge for the player to be detained as a precautionary measure, given that he is in Rome until Sunday.

"Gascoigne has been notified at every stage of the case at his home in England, but has always ignored the affair. He hasn't even appointed a lawyer, which has had to be done for him.

"All we are asking for today is a gesture of goodwill to settle the matter. Because one thing is certain, sooner or later the player will have to pay Nanni damages.

"There is no escaping Italian justice," he warned.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Douglas comeback hits snag

UNCASVILLE, Connecticut (AFP) — Former world heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas will fight fellow American John Ruiz here on Saturday after suffering an injured hard in training. Douglas has won 3 fights in a comeback bid after eating himself into a life threatening situation following his loss of the unified world crown to Evander Holyfield in 1990. A 10th-round knockout of Mike Tyson in Tokyo earlier that year gave Douglas his place in history. His revival after squandering it has come in hopes of finding a title rematch against Holyfield or a lucrative payday in a possible rematch with Tyson, now banished from the sport for biting Holyfield's ear last June.

### Packers make deal at deadline

GREEN BAY (AFP) — Reigning National Football League champion Green Bay made the first major transfer in a decade on the NFL's trading deadline, dispatching linebacker Wayne Simmons to Kansas City. The Chiefs sent an undisclosed draft choice to the Packers, who found the fifth-year veteran expendable with the another veteran linebacker Seth Joyner available — he will now have a greater opportunity to play. Simmons brings some security to the Chiefs, who have been without linebacker Derrick Thomas for four weeks due to a left triceps injury. The 27-year-old Simmons made 76 tackles and 2 1/2 sacks last year to help the Packers take the Super Bowl title. To make room for Simmons, the Chiefs released receiver Brett Perriman, who had only six catches for 83 yards in five games this season.

### Swansea sack Molby

LONDON (AFP) — English third Division side Swansea sacked their manager Jan Molby on Wednesday after their poor start to the season. The former Liverpool and Danish international had his contract terminated by the Welsh club and assistant manager Billy Ayre has also been sacked. Youth team manager Alan Curtis will take over until a new manager is appointed.

### Munich 1860 and Karlsruhe replay

FRANKFURT (AFP) — The German Football Federation's federal court has ordered the Bundesliga match between Munich 1860 and Karlsruhe to be replayed because of a referee's mistake. The court ruled that the referee, Michael Malblanc, had blown his whistle prior to Sean Dundee scoring Karlsuhe's second goal which tied the match at 2-2 — the final result. It is only the second time since the Bundesliga began in 1963 that a match has been ordered to be replayed.

### Third Portuguese coach is fired

LISBON (AFP) — Portuguese First Division side Belenenses have sacked their Bulgarian coach Stoicho Mladenov — making him the third managerial casualty since the start of the season. Mladenov paid the price for Belenenses lying joint bottom of the league with just three points from six matches. Leca, who share bottom place with Belenenses, sacked their coach Rodolfo Reis on Monday while Benfica ended Manuel Jose's term two weeks ago.

### Brolin turns down Brazilian move

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Leeds United's unsettled Swedish international striker Tomas Brolin has turned down an offer to join Brazilian side Portuguesa. The 27-year-old Brolin, who inspired Sweden to third place at the 1994 World Cup finals and also appeared in the 1990 finals, has been keen to leave Leeds since the beginning of the 1996-97 season and enjoyed a brief spell back at his former Serie A side Parma last season though a permanent deal also fell through.

### Wang beats Olympic medallist

SHANGHAI (AFP) — Wang Tianling beat Olympic silver medalist Yu Zhuocheng to the men's one-metre springboard at the All China Games here Tuesday. Wang trailed Yu by 16.16 points going into the last dive but beat his rival into second place with a nearly flawless final dive which scored 79.2 points. Yu slipped on the board on his last dive and scored only 59.45 points. Yu teamed up with Barcelona Olympic platform champion Sun Shuwei and another star diver Lan Wei to anchor the men's team title on Sunday.

### Townsend out of World Cup clash

DUBLIN (AFP) — Republic of Ireland skipper Andy Townsend has pulled out of the crucial World Cup game against Romania on Saturday. The 33-year-old Middlesbrough midfielder is to have a scan after picking up a knee injury in the first division game against Sheffield United on Sunday. The former Aston Villa player could also be doubtful for the League Cup tie with local rivals Sunderland at the Riverside Stadium next week.

### Job prefers Cameroon to France

PARIS (AFP) — Nineteen-year-old Joseph-Desire Job, 13 goals in 14 matches for French first division side Lyon, has staked his future in Cameroon. Job, who has dual nationality, had been picked for the French Under 21 side to play Switzerland on Sunday but the Cameroon federation told him they wanted him for the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso in February and next summer's World Cup finals in France.

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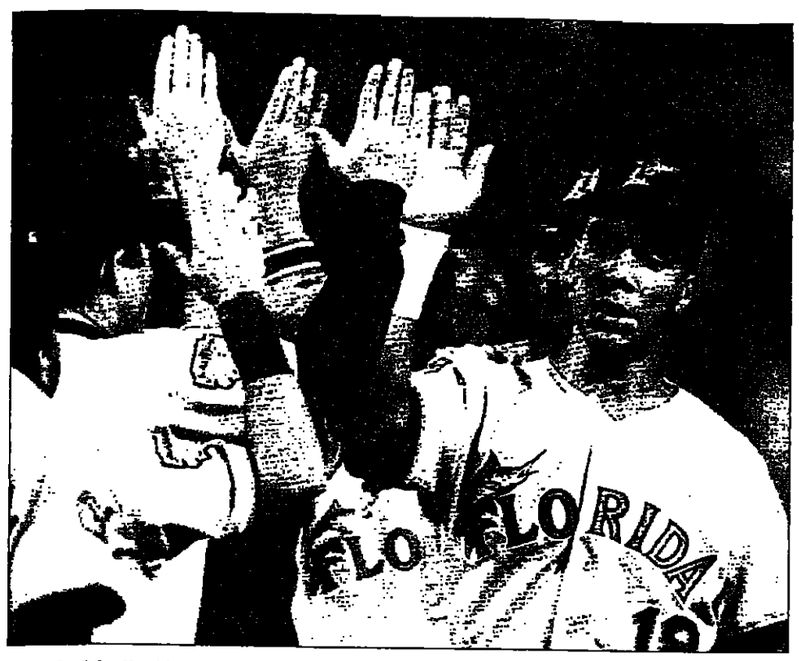
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Florida Marlins' Moises Alou slaps hands with teammates after the Florida Marlins defeated the Atlanta Braves 5-3 in game one of the NLCS. Alou drove in three runs with a bases loaded double in the first inning (Reuters photo)

# Marlins beat error-prone Braves

ATLANTA (AFP) — Atlanta defencive errors gave Florida three runs in the first inning, powering the upset-minded Marlins past Atlanta 5-3 Tuesday to open the National League Championship Series.

The Marlins, wild-card playoff qualifiers after finishing second to Atlanta in the NL East division, won eight of 12 from the Braves in the regular season before grabbing the opener in the best-of-seven matchup.

Now the fifth-year club, which spent $90 million on free agent talent before the season, is three victories away from a first-ever World Series berth. The Braves seek their fifth berth in their past six tries.

Atlanta first baseman Fred McGriff's error loaded the bases in the first inning and third baseman Jones failed to glove a bouncing ground ball by Moises Alou, allowing three runs to score.

"It was a tough hop," Alou said. "I didn't hit the ball that good. I guess I got a break."

Marlins' 16-game winner Kevin Brown out-pitched Atlanta ace Greg Maddux, who allowed no earned runs but was betrayed by the Braves' mistake-prone defense, which made two errors and two other poor plays.

"We just didn't catch the ball," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said.

"If we catch the ball, we win the ball game."

Brown was not particularly sharp, allowing home runs to Chipper Jones and Ryan Klesko. But staked to a three-run lead before throwing a pitch, Brown notched his first career playoff victory, allowing three runs and five hits in six innings, walking four and striking out three.

Left-handed reliever Dennis Cook pitched two scoreless innings, striking out two, before Robb Nen retired the Braves in order in the ninth inning.

Maddux, a four-time league Most Valuable Pitcher, won 19 games in the regular season but could not solve the Marlins. Still, Florida slugger Gary Sheffield does not feel confident entering Wednesday's second game.

"You never can feel comfortable against these guys," Sheffield said. "They have the best pitchers in the world. Hopefully you can get a pitch where you can hit it."

The Marlins can now take the series by winning their three home games. They have the best home-field record in the sport this season.

"It's a great win for us," said Jim Leyland, Florida's much-beloved manager who lost to Cox's Braves twice in seven games in the league finals while with Pittsburgh.

"It's good to get on the board first but the idea is to win four."

### Baseball Postseason Glance

**Division series**

• **American League**
Baltimore wins series 3-1
Cleveland wins series 3-2
• **National League**
Atlanta wins series 3-0
Florida wins series 3-0

**League Championship series**

• **American League**
Thursday, Oct. 9 Cleveland at Baltimore (key 16-10)
Saturday, Oct. 11 Baltimore (Mussina 15-8) at Cleveland
Sunday, Oct. 12 Baltimore at Cleveland
Monday, Oct. 13 Baltimore at Cleveland, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 15 Cleveland at Baltimore, if necessary
Thursday, Oct. 16 Cleveland at Baltimore, if necessary

• **National League**
Friday, Oct. 10
Atlanta (Smoltz 15-12) at Florida (Leiter 11-9)
Saturday, Oct. 11 Atlanta at Florida
Sunday, Oct. 12 Atlanta at Florida, if necessary
Tuesday, Oct. 14 Florida at Atlanta, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 15 Florida at Atlanta, if necessary

**World Series**

Saturday, Oct. 18 American League champion at National League champion
Sunday, Oct. 19 AL at NL
Tuesday, Oct. 21 NL at AL
Wednesday, Oct. 22 NL at AL
Thursday, Oct. 23 NL at AL if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 25 AL at NL, if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 26 AL at NL, if necessary

# Kuerten through but Kafelnikov crashes out

VIENNA (AFP) — French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil progressed to the second round of the ATP tournament here on Tuesday with a three set win over Spaniard Albert Costa but the 1996 French Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia crashed out in straight sets.

Kuerten beat Costa 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2) leaving the unfortunate Spaniard still without a career win on the indoor circuit while the top seeded Kafelnikov, who was suffering from a back problem, saw his chances of making the ATP championships in Hanover virtually disappear going down 4-6, 5-7 to Slovakian Karol Kucera.

The 21-year-old Kuerten, seeded five here and ranked 11 in the world, came from a break down in the final set against the 20th ranked Costa to take the tiebreak easily — rounding off the match with first an exquisitely disguised drop shot followed on match point by an overhead smash.

Costa, who won in Barcelona and Marbella during the outdoor season, had only himself to blame as he had served for the first set leading 5-4 only to serve two double faults to hand the Brazilian the break back.

Kuerten then broke Costa again and served out with the minimum of fuss to take the first set.

Costa hit back in the second set breaking Kuerten to go 3-1 up and despite failing to convert two set points, losing one with yet another double fault, he finally levelled the tie when the bandana wearing Brazilian sent a cross court forehand wide.

Another former French Open winner and crowd favourite Thomas Muster of Austria sailed through his encounter with Moroccan Hicham Arazi 6-2, 6-2.

The 30-year-old sixth seeded Muster, bidding to win this tournament for the first time in 12 attempts, was in sublime form against his young Moroccan opponent who was tasting defeat in the first round of a tournament for the eighth time this year.

Third seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia had a tough three setter with Dane Fredrik Fetterlein before coming through 6-3 in the third set while the 1996 Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands trounced Belgian Filip De Wulf, who beat Muster to take this title in 1995, in straight sets.

Wednesday's play in the tournament, which features 18 individual winners from this year, pits Great Britain's world number four Greg Rusedski against Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine and then Rusedski's compatriot Tim Henman takes on Spaniard Felix Mantilla.

# Graf on target for return at Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Former World No. 1 Steffi Graf is still on course for a comeback at the Australian Open in January, organisers said Wednesday.

Graf is recovering from knee surgery in June, which has been the main cause of her world ranking falling to Number 15.

Australian Open tournament director Paul McNamee said Graf was "gunning" for the Australian title. "That's Steffi's own words."

"She has had a fairly serious knee operation and is going through rehabiliation. She needs to go through that process and get out there and play matches," he said.

"All of her pysche and prepartion are to be ready, certainly in advance of the 1998 Australian Open," McNamee said.

"So assuming everything goes well with Steffi she'll be here, there's no doubt about that," he added.

The tournament from January 19 to February 1 at the Melbourne Park stadium is expected to attract most top women players.

New number one, Martina Hingis of Switzerland, will defend her title and Monica Seles will also bidding for the first 1998 Grand Slam prize.

# *Heat could stop Australian Open*

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Australian Open matches may be halted if temperatures reach the searing level that brought protests from top players this year, organisers said Wednesday.

Organisers started discussions with players' organisations and medical experts two months ago and expected to have a new heat policy ready in advance of the next Open in January.

"We are working in consultation with the many many parties which are concerned" about a comprehensive policy, said tournament director Paul McNamee.

He said it would cover not only such questions as breaks in matches in extreme heat and closing the roof of the centre court, but under what circumstances they would consider suspending play.

Geoff Pollard, president of Tennis Australia, said: "We could be setting a precedent."

McNamee stressed that it broke new ground and that the policy applied here could affect other tournaments around the world.

Temperatures soaring into the high 30s Celsius had players reeling, exhausted at this year's Open and a controversial policy was adopted of closing the centre court roof for matches from the quarter finals on when the temperature hit 35 degrees Celsius.

The tournament, which is the first of next year's Grand Slam events, will be held from January 19 to February 1 and prize money will be increased five per cent to 10 million Australian dollars ($7.3m).

The gap between the men's and women's prize money remains has been narrowed, with women now playing for 93 per cent of the amount the men get.

Almost all of the top 20 ranked men and women are expected to play, including defending singles champions Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis.

There will be a keen home interest in the tournament as Australia's U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter is set to become the first seeded Australian since Pat Cash in 1989.

Monica Seles and Andre Agassi where also expected here.

And Steffi Graf has already announced that she is "gunning for the Australian Open," said McNamee.

New balls will be in use in the tournament which this year drew more than 390,000 people to the sleek Melbourne Park stadium.

McNamee said the new balls have been specially developed by Slazenger to cope with the Rebound Ace surface and will not fluff up like last year's balls which were criticised as being too heavy and too slow.

# Monaco maintain pressure on leaders

PARIS (AFP) — A goal from striker David Trezeguet gave the 1997 champions Monaco a vital 1-0 win over Bastia in the French championship on Tuesday — taking them to within three points of leaders Metz who play on Wednesday.

In Tuesday's other match the 1996 champions Auxerre won 3-2 away at bottom club Cannes with summer signing Yann Lachuer scoring two of their goals.

Monaco captain John Collins missed their easiest chance of the night slicing his 15 yard effort wide with just the keeper to beat.

Auxerre, who have also recovered from an inconsistent start, scored three splendid goals against a Cannes side that put up some spirited resistance.

Lachuer, who signed from French championship newboys Chateauroux in the close season, scored the best of the night slipping the ball home after playing a neat 1-2 with newly called up French squad striker Stephane Guivarc'h.

Metz can restore their six point advantage over Monaco if they beat lowly Le Havre at home on Wednesday while Paris Saint Germain, a point ahead of Monaco, play host to Guingamp.

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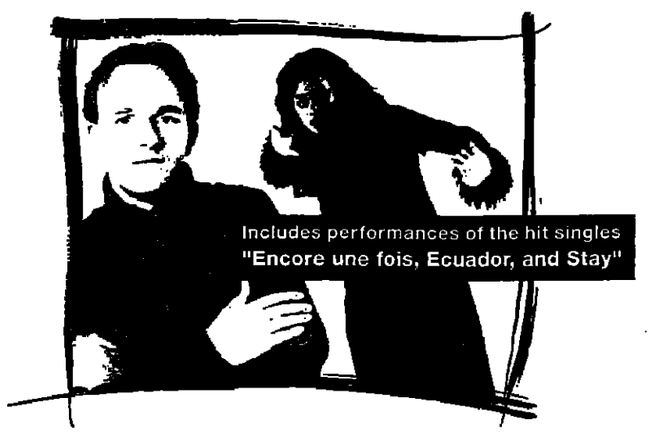
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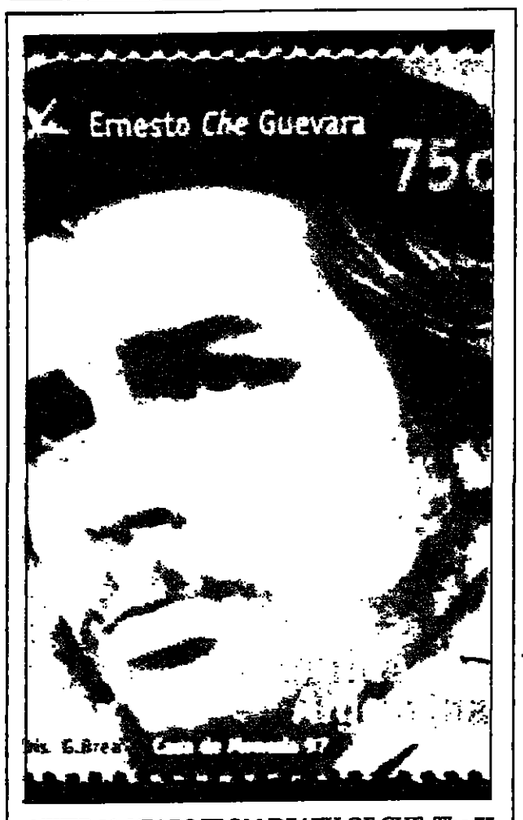
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**AFTER 30 YEARS FROM DEATH OF CHE: The 75-cent stamp put into circulation October 8 by the Argentine government commemorates the 30th anniversary of the capture and execution in Bolivia of Argentine-Cuban revolutionary leader, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara (Reuters photo)**

# Bomb kills 3, troops slay 21 Islamist rebels; official says GIA chief still alive in Algeria

PARIS (R) — A bomb explosion killed three railway workers in western Algeria as troops, advancing on Islamist rebel bases near Algiers, killed 21 guerrillas. Algerian newspapers said on Wednesday.

The three railway employees were killed Monday near Draizine town in the province of Tlemcen, some 400 kilometres west of Algiers, where the rail flatbed carrying them to work plunged into a crater caused by a bomb explosion the day before, Al Watan newspaper said.

Thirteen more workers were hurt in the incident, it added. Trains and the railway network have been targeted by Islamist rebels since early 1992 with the aim of disrupting the country's economy.

At least 21 train passengers were killed late in April, in one of the worst rebel attack on the country's rail transport.

Meanwhile, troops, in a highly publicised operation against Islamist rebels near Algiers, killed 21 rebels and recovered documents they said showed that Armed Islamic Group (GIA) commander Antar Zouabri has amassed a war chest, putting him among Algeria's richest men, newspapers said.

Al Khabar said soldiers shot dead the 21 members of the GIA's elite force, Katibate Al Forkane, Monday in Baraki, south of Algiers.

Al Watan and Le Matin newspapers said an army officer paraded before local reporters a 36-year-old woman captured after the 21 men were killed.

The newspapers said the military alleged that the woman they named as Ould Hamrane Zohra, Alias Nacira, acted as guide to GIA rebels as they massacred at least 85 civilians in Algiers Bentalha neighbourhood of Baraki late in September.

It was the first time that the military had brought such a first-hand witness of massacres.

The army and other government security corps have been smarting from attacks by human rights activists in Algeria and abroad who asked why security forces only appeared at the scenes of carnage after the assailants had spent hours in killing civilians and taken their time in leaving, sometimes in trucks.

"Nacira knows well Bentalha where she lived for many years before moving [elsewhere]...she accompanied 40 terrorists to Bentalha. Two gunmen walked alongside her with the lists of those to be massacred," Al Watan quoted her as saying.

Al Watan, quoted an army officer insisting they recovered materials and documents from houseblocks used by GIA members in the area of Sidi Moussa, south of Algiers, showing detailed plans of massacres, including the carnage of Bentalha.

The officer, quoted by Al Watan, said GIA chief Zouabri became among Algeria's richest men thanks to cash his men forcibly extracted from Algerians, including jewellery of hundreds of massacred women.

"The amount of money piled up by the GIA chief from the Mitidja area alone [comprising Algiers, Blida and other richer agricultural areas] stood at [$2.4 million]," it said.

The money was used to buy weapons and renting villas and flats in cities to harbour GIA's hitmen, blamed by the authorities for the deaths of *leading intellectuals*, workers' union officials and media workers, the newspaper said.

Le Matin, casting another layer of doubt on leaked official statements about the GIA and its leaders, said Mr. Zouabri, who took over as GIA chief 14 months ago, was still alive.

"Antar Zouabri is still in the run," said Le Matin, indirectly quoting a senior army officer, conflicting with earlier Algerian reports that he was shot dead along with more than 200 of his men in a July army offensive in Blida region.

The army is now carrying out a huge offensive against the GIA in Sidi Moussa area which includes Ouled Allel where the group has one of its main bases.

"The operation has an unspecified deadline and it aims to destroy [rebels] hideouts," said Al Khabar, quoting unnamed military sources.

About 60,000 people have been killed in Algeria's violence since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the Islamic Salvation Front had taken a commanding lead.

# U.N. envoy rejects outside mediation

GENEVA (R) — Algeria's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva said Wednesday that his country needed no outside mediation despite worsening violence in his government's bloody confrontation with Islamist rebels.

"When you speak of mediation, you speak of civil war. In Algeria, there is no civil war," Ambassador Mohammad Salah Dembri, a former Algerian foreign minister, told a briefing in Geneva.

"Algeria is an independent, sovereign country with a parliamentary democracy and institutions and is capable of solving its own problems," he said. "We do not accept any interference in our affairs."

Gunmen have cut the throats of hundreds of civilians including babies and women in Algeria's recent violence.

About 60,000 people have been killed since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead.

Mr. Dembri ruled out negotiations with the FIS, Algeria's largest opposition group, which was banned and went into rebellion after authorities cancelled the polls, and other Islamist guerrillas.

"We did not at any time have any contact with the FIS and other Muslim guerrillas and there will not be any contact," Mr. Dembri said.

Mr. Dembri said the guerrillas enjoyed logistical support in Western countries including Switzerland, Germany, Italy and France but did not elaborate.

"There are bases of support for terrorism in Algeria in France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Germany. We are asking for cooperation from these countries to put an end to all this," he said. "This terrorism is international."

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), one of two main rebel factions seeking to turn Algeria into an Islamist state, has been observing a unilateral ceasefire since October 1.

The main group accused by authorities of killing civilians is the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

The AIS says its ceasefire aims to cut the violence and expose the rival GIA — which it blames for the slaughter of thousands of civilians, most of them women and children.

# Mubarak slams bid to kill Misha'al as 'immoral' act

ISMAILIYA (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak denounced as "immoral" on Wednesday an Israeli attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader and slammed the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu.

"The operation carried out by Israel is immoral. It reflects complete chaos. If every country was allowed to do that there will be total chaos and it will destabilise the entire world," Mr. Mubarak told reporters.

"I cannot understand how the entire world is standing by watching him [Netanyahu] do whatever he pleases in the region," he said, adding that U.S. President Bill Clinton was the only one to speak out against "political terrorism."

"This will not lead to peace. Violating the sovereignty of an Arab country is very dangerous," Mr. Mubarak said.

Asked about foreign press reports that Mossad agents also used Egyptian passports, Mr. Mubarak said: "This is a very dangerous issue if confirmed."

The Egyptian president also hoped that Wednesday's surprise summit between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat could bear fruit.

But he stressed that without Egypt — the first Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 — there can be no progress in the peace process.

## Arafat-Netanyahu summit offers 'new beginning' but no miracles

(Continued from page 1)

revealed a "new urgency not just to have a process but also to begin to produce results." Israeli sources said the two sides specifically agreed to resume high-level talks on combating "terrorism." The talks were suspended following a series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem in July and September.

Marwan Kanafani, Arafat's spokesman, said the meeting also covered the key Palestinian demands, backed by Washington, that Israel halt the building of Jewish settlements in occupied territories and carry out promised transfers of further West Bank land to the Palestinian interim self-rule authority.

"All topics were discussed, including a halt to settlements, the redeployments and the causes of the halt in the peace process," he told Agence France Presse.

A senior Palestinian official said, however, that there were no breakthroughs on these issues, a failure Mr. Ross also acknowledged.

"There shouldn't be any illusions, there is a lot of work to be done, a lot of differences to be overcome," he said.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations broke down in March after Israel balked at carrying out a West Bank troop withdrawal and began building a Jewish settlement on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem.

The crisis deepened dramatically following a string of bombings over the past 10 weeks by Hamas' military wing, the Izzeddine Al Qassam Brigade.

Mr. Ross arrived in the region Monday to kick off the resumption of detailed negotiations on implementing interim peace agreements under which Israel should release Palestinian prisoners and permit the opening of an air and seaport in Gaza and free passage corridors between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Ross said those lower-level talks would continue "with some intensity" and that he would return to the region next week to follow them up.

But a planned meeting Monday in Washington between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian National Authority Deputy Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the broader issues such as settlements and troop withdrawals had been pushed back until the end of the month due to a series of Jewish holidays, he said.

Wednesday's surprise summit capped a dramatic rush of events sparked by a botched Israeli attempt to assassinate a leader of Hamas in Jordan 13 days ago.

The affair nearly caused a breakdown in relations with Jordan, the Arab state with the warmest relations with Israel in the region, and cast serious new doubts on Mr. Netanuahu's sincerity in pursuing the peace process.

Press reports quoted U.S. officials as saying Mr. Netanyahu sought the meeting with Mr. Arafat in an attempt to reaffirm both his peace credentials and his insistence that despite Israel's decision to release Sheikh Yassin, he still expected the Palestinians to crack down on Hamas activists.

But a senior Palestinian official said Mr. Arafat was also keen on the meeting in hopes a weakened Mr. Netanyahu could be convinced to ease sanctions imposed on Palestinians following recent bombings and yield ground in the interim negotiations so that a weary Palestinian public could see some fruits of the peace process.

# Israeli opposition says inquiry panel 'has no authority'

TEL AVIV (AP) — A committee appointed by Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu to investigate the botched assassination of a Hamas leader in the Jordanian capital, Amman, is a political fig leaf not meant to uncover the truth, opposition leaders said Wednesday.

The three-member panel has no authority to subpoena witnesses and its recommendations are not binding, said Yossi Katz, a legislator of the opposition Labour Party.

Two of the members are senior civil servants dependent on the government for their jobs and the third is on the record as having supporting Mr. Netanyahu's decision to target Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman on Sept. 25, Israeli media said.

"From the public's point of view, it is [politically] not aesthetic that this committee will decide the fate of the prime minister," said Mr. Katz. "This raises questions about the prime minister's continued evasion of serious inquiries."

The opposition Labour and Meretz parties are calling for a state inquiry headed by a judge with authority to subpoena witnesses.

Mr. Katz heads parliament's committee of the state comptroller that could set up such an inquiry — even against Mr. Netanyahu's wishes — as long as it has the backing of the state comptroller.

Mr. Netanyahu appointed his panel Monday after the two captured Israeli agents in the Jordanian capital amidst the bungled attempt on Mr. Misha'al's life were released by King Hussein and returned to Israel.

As part of the swap, Israel released the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, from prison and after a stopover in Jordan allowed Sheikh Yassin to return to the Gaza Strip. It also freed 20 Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners.

The panel is to investigate the decision-making process that led to the operation, and the botched assassination itself.

Mr. Netanyahu has been widely criticised for operating in Jordan, the Arab state with the warmest relations with Israel so far, and disregarding the sovereignty of the state.

Jordan has to contend with a strong Islamist movement and faces elections in November.

The panel members are Rafi Peled, the director of the government — owned Israel Electric Corp.; Nahum Admoni, a former Mossad chief; and Joseph Ciechanover, the chairman of the National Carrier El Al. Mr. Admoni also sits on the board of directors of companies owned by Israeli businessman Ted Arison, who is a personal friend of Mr. Netanyahu, according to the Haaretz daily.

A poll published in the Yediot Ahronot daily said 55 per cent of 503 respondents believe the panel would not uncover the truth. The margin of error was four per cent.

Mr. Misha'al's attempted assassination showed no signs of dying down Wednesday, with Israeli media also focusing on a Hamas cease-fire offer which reached Israel two days before the attack on Mr. Misha'al, but according to Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh was only passed on to the prime minister several hours after the assassination had failed.

In the offer, Hamas reportedly said it was ready to stop attacks for 10 years if Israel met certain conditions, such as withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and dismantling Jewish settlements. Such conditions would have been non-starters for Mr. Netanyahu's hardline government.

Israeli newspapers indicated Wednesday that the Mossad spy agency was to blame for holding up the Hamas offer. The Yediot Ahronot daily said Mr. Netanyahu ordered an investigation, fuelling speculation that Mossad chief Dan Yatom would be asked to resign.

# AI: Attempt on Misha'al's life part of 'pattern of extrajudicial killings' by Israeli governments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli government's attempt to kill Hamas leader, Khaled Misha'al, in Amman on Sept. 25 follows a pattern of extrajudicial killings or attempted killings ordered or condoned by successive Israeli governments, Amnesty International said yesterday.

"Even if the person targeted is suspected of ordering or participating in violent acts, such killings are an unacceptable violation of fundamental human rights — including the right to life," the organisation said in a statement faxed to the press.

It said that on Sept. 25 two Israeli secret agents attacked Mr. Misha'al in Amman. They reportedly injected him with a poison which would have given the impression that he had died of an illness. The Israeli government on Oct. 5 admitted its responsibility for the attack; saying he was involved in planning Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians.

On Oct. 7, the Israeli prime minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, set up a committee of inquiry, which includes a former head of Israeli intelligence (Mossad). At the same time, he defended the assassination attempt, saying that Israel was fighting a "just war." Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani insisted the furore would not keep Israel from future attempts to kill suspected "guerrilla leaders... wherever they are."

"Statements by Israeli government ministers do not bode well for the committee of inquiry which may end up considering the failure rather than the illegality of the botched Amman attack," Amnesty International (AI) said. "Extrajudicial killings in any form are totally unacceptable and we call on the Israeli government to cease them."

"Amnesty International oppose unreservedly the killing of civilians by armed opposition groups. More than 100 civilians have been killed over the past four years in attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Israel or the occupied territories. Nevertheless, governments must in all circumstances maintain full respect for international human rights standards, particularly the rights to life and security of person, in taking action against perpetrators of these attacks," the statement said.

# U.N. General Assembly shifts into reform gear

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday opens a decisive chapter as diplomats begin the formal examination of reform proposals put forward by U.N. chief Kofi Annan.

Senior U.N. officials say they are heartened by the general response by government leaders who have addressed the 185-nation assembly during the past three-week debate.

Mr. Annan aides hope that the General Assembly will focus on his streamlining proposals as a package, rather than decide to send them to committees to be picked apart, consigning them to possible oblivion.

They also hope that the assembly will act expeditiously so that the reforms may be implemented from next January 1.

But developing countries grouped in the G-77, representing some 130 states, have said that they are opposed to the proposals being taken as a package, and say that no time-frame should be imposed.

They also want the General Assembly to consider all of Mr. Annan's proposals, including those which he has been implementing under his own authority since he announced the reform draft in June.

The developing countries fear that Mr. Annan, who took office in January on a reform platform with U.S. backing, is dancing to Washington's tune by seeking job cuts and mergers.

The U.S. Congress is linking the payment of more than one billion dollars in U.S. arrears to reform "benchmarks" carried out by the U.N. a conditionally rejected by Washington's partners here.

However, U.N. officials stress the Ghanaian U.N. chief's development concerns. He has pledged to channel all savings from the reforms into a "development dividend."

Among the most controversial of his proposals is a call to establish the post of deputy secretary general, which according to U.N. sources has been lined up for Japan's Sadako Ogata. She is currently the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva.

Responding to criticism from delegates who say that Mr. Annan's definition of the post was too vague, U.N. officials are due to circulate additional information to the assembly on Wednesday.

However, even those delegates who question the post have no doubt that the measure will be approved by the assembly.

General assembly President Hennadiy Udovenko of Ukraine has sought help from Brazil and Norway in a bid to ensure the smooth passage of the reform package.

Officials expect that after a plenary session Wednesday afternoon, the package would be discussed by the assembly behind closed doors.

## Colu...

### Yogi claims wife was 'energy vampire' as grounds for divorce

BUCHAREST (AFP) — A Romanian yogi seeking divorce from his yogi wife told a court she was an "energy vampire" who sapped his sexual strength over 16 years of marriage, preventing conception. The *plaintiff, identified only by* the initials V.N., appeared to have already begun regaining his forces, the court said, noting that his mistress was seven months pregnant. Yoga, banned under communism, has made a comeback in Romania since the fall of long-time dictator Nicolai Ceausescu in 1989 and has numerous followers.

### Prisoner holds hostage for pizza and Coke

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — A 21-year-old Polish man awaiting trial in Copenhagen's Vester Faengsel prison on a double-murder charge took a fellow inmate hostage Wednesday and demanded a pizza and Coke for his surrender, police said. The man, not identified, hit a guard with an iron bar in the prison yard and took a 17-year-old inmate hostage, holding him several hours before releasing him after a pizza of his choice and a liter-and-a-half of Coke were delivered.

### Granny tries to sell 3-year-old grandchild for cocaine

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentine grandmother was arrested after being caught on camera as she tried to sell her three-year-old granddaughter for half a kilogramme of cocaine and $1,000 in cash, said police. Police working with Argentina's Channel 13 Television moved in after hidden cameras filmed the grandmother, 54, in a restaurant trying to strike a drug deal with an undercover policeman, whom she told: "She doesn't know anything, she's an angel." Half a kilo of cocaine would have a street value of about $15,000, a police drugs expert said.

### Companies team up to make cloned cattle produce human milk

BOSTON (R) — Two U.S. companies said they had teamed up to make cloned cattle that would in turn produce milk containing human proteins. Genzyme Transgenics Corp. of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Worcester, Massachusetts-based Advanced Cell Technology Inc. said they would combine both genetic engineering and cloning to create a herd of cattle genetically identical to one another, and carrying human genes. Genzyme said it would pay Advanced Cell Technology $10 million over five years in the deal, which combines Genzyme's ability to create transgenic, or genetically engineered, animals with Advanced Cell's techniques for producing cloned cattle embryos.

### Bardot seeks damages from ex-husband

PARIS (AFP) — Former actress Brigitte Bardot is seeking around $80,000 in damages from ex-husband Jacques Charrier over revelations in his tell-all book. Bardot unsuccessfully sought to have the book banned in June but has pursued legal action. A Paris court on Wednesday postponed its ruling in the case until November 5. Her lawyer Wallerand de Saint-Just claimed the book, "Ma Reponse a B.B." (My Reply to B.B.), breached French privacy laws, notably by reproducing letters sent by Bardot to her husband.